STENOGRAPHIC TRANSCRIPT

P U B L I C H E A R I N G

RE: MEDICAL CENTER URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT AREA.

BOOK No. 3.

(Newark City Hall, Wednesday, June 14th, 1967)

WINARD & WINARD
24 COMMERCE ST.
NEWARK 2, N. J.

NEWARK CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBER
ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

In the matter of the hearing in re: Consideration of status of certain areas in the City of Newark.

June 14, 1967
Newark, New Jersey

B E F O R E :

NEWARK PLANNING BOARD

JOSEPH A. COCUZZA, CHAIRMAN

ALDO GIACCHINO, SECRETARY

JOSEPH J. BRADLEY
MATTHEW D'ALLESIO
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CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. This hearing will now resume. The Chair wishes to make an announcement.

Will the Secretary please call the roll?

MR. GIACCHINO: Mr. Bradley.

MR. BRADLEY: Here.

MR. GIACCHINO: Mr. D'Allesio.

MR. D'ALLESIO: Here.

MR.GIACCHINO: Mr. McDowell.

MR. McDOWELL: Here.

MR. GIACCHINO: Mr. Corrodo.

MR. CORRODO: Here.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: The Chair wishes to make this announcement. The Board has held a meeting prior to the appearance here this morning and they have arrived at the following rule:

First is that all speakers must stick to the subject matter and anything else is irrelevant or extraneous to the area. And you know by now what the area encompasses. The purpose of this public hearing is for the citizens of the area in particular to

come here and voice their opinion as to whether they believe the area in question is blighted or whether it is not blighted. Furthermore, you also can express an opinion as to whether the medical college should be there and why it should not be there.

Furthermore, each speaker will be given only 30 minutes to make the presentation and 10 minutes for summation. That is the ruling of the Board. And as Chairman I ask that you please confine yourselves to that rule.

The next speaker is Mr. Ronald Kirk.

Is Mr. Kirk present?

MR. RICHARDSON: No. Because of the untimely hearing of this meeting, Mr. Kirk had to work today and requested that he be permitted to finish his presentation when he returns from work this afternoon. Now, Mr. Moore who was serving in the capacity for management opposition also had to work today and asked that I be permitted to take his place and list the speakers for him.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Mr. Richardson, inasmuch as Mr. Kirk is not present, the Chair

will call the speakers in accordance with the cards we have here present. So, the next speaker is Mr. James Avorz, 148 Goldsmith Avenue.

Is Mr. Avorz present?

Mr. Avorz does not respond.

The next speaker is Mr. Donald Tucker, 177 Pennington Street.

Mr. Tucker, please.

COLONEL HASSIN: Just as a point of information, Mr. Chairman--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: There is no point of information. I'm calling the speakers, please, Colonel, if you do not mind.

COLONEL HASSIN: Yes, I would like one thing clarified, with due respect to the Chair.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: I will give you half a second.

COLONEL HASSIN: The speakers you are calling, because of the circumstances involved in making their livelihood, and they live in the blighted area, a great percentage, we request that you not take

them from the speakers' list because they will be here.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Oh, no, that is not our intention.

COLONEL HASSIN: Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: You are welcome, I am sure.

The next speaker is Mr. Rufus Jackson, 157 Fairmont Avenue.

Mr. Jackson?

Mr. Jackson is not present?

The next speaker is the Reverend S. W. Simmons, 272 Prince Street.

COLONEL HASSIN: He will be here. He is not here yet.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Reverend Simmons is not present?

COLONEL HASSIN: He will be here.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: The next speaker is Mr. Andrew Washington, 38 Eckert Avenue.

MR. RICHARDSON: Mr. Washington is delayed. He is a school teacher.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Let the record show Mr. Washington is not present.

MR. RICHARDSON: He will be here.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: The next speaker is Mr. Phillip Hutchings.

MR. RICHARDSON: He is working, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: 277 18th Avenue, Newark. Let the record show that Mr. Hutchings is not present.

MISS BETTY MOSS: 631 Hunterdon Street.

Let the record show Miss Betty Moss is not present.

Mr. Thomas F. Gaig, 825 South 10th Street.

Mr. Gaig, please step forward.

Mr. Gaig is not present.

Mr. Norvell Jones, 825 South 10th Street.

Is Mr. Jones present?

Let the record show he is not present.

Mr. John Williams, 378 Belmont Avenue, please step forward.

Mr. Williams is not present.

Miss Marie McAlpine, 271 Clinton

Avenue.

Mrs. McAlpine is not present.

Mr. Frank Young, 471 Clinton Avenue.

Mr. Young, please?

He is not present.

Mrs. Blue, 49 Bergen Street.

Mrs. Blue is not present.

Mr. F. Means, 65 Tuxedo Parkway.

If Mr. Fred Means present?

MR. RICHARDSON: No, he is also a school teacher.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Mr. Fred Means is not present.

Mr. Junius Williams, 204 Johnson Avenue.

Mr. Williams is not present.

Miss Connie Brown, 227 Jelliff Avenue.

Miss Brown is not present.

Mr. Evan Desseasau, 272 Ferry Street.

MR. RICHARDSON: Mr. Chairman, in the interest of getting this meeting under way, there are some people here who desire to speak.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: We are going through these cards.

MR. RICHARDSON: Suppose I call off the names of the people who can speak. These people can't sit here all day to play games. These people took off from work for an hour or two. Let me read the names of the people so you can give them permission to speak so they can go.

Now, Mr. Willie Hardy is here.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Mr. Richardson, as the--

MR. RICHARDSON: Mr. Harding, William Hardy.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Hardy, is that the name, sir?

MR. RICHARDSON: Yes.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Please come forward.

Mr. Hardy, would you be good enough to give the Court Stenographer your name and address, please?

MR. HARDY: My name is Mr. Willie Hardy. I live at 108 Hillside Avenue.

Your records already show that this is a blighted area, thereby makes your task of

condemning this as such a cut and dry affair. However, any area in the City of Newark can be deemed blighted by the Mayor, the City Fathers and/or the Planning Board when they see fit if they can come up with some supposedly meaningful program for the benefit of the City, not its citizens--and I say again not its citizens.

I have in front of me a pamphlet on Democracy in Action which fits in with this whatever you want to call it.

"Political leaders hold off only as long as they maintain the loyalty of those who support them. To protect their position in the face of those who aspire to them, the leaders must--" I rather not read the next part of it.

"Sometimes the individual who calls the shots does not hold either public office or title in the party. These persons exercise their control of party affairs through officially designated party leaders who in effect become merely figureheads and front men."

I would like to address that directly

to the Committee.

No area in the City of Newark or any other city, county, town, village or state government should use the genesis prophecy as a method to blighting an area to a point of unlivable conditions, thereby causing a never ending transit stage of less fortunate and eventually fortunate minority groups to be in a never ending turmoil as to where they are going, how they are going and who is going to help them to go. If the genesis prophecy becomes a reality, and there is evidence of it now here in the City of Newark and throughout the United States, you should be charged and held responsible for the mass exploitation and possible extermination in any way, form, fashion by the world court.

Even though everybody knows, I would like briefly to run down why we have these particular areas which I would like to say at this point are not necessarily blighted areas.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Pardon me, sir, will you confine and restrict yourself in the

area under discussion, please?

MR. HARDY: This is in the area.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Not the city at large but the area bounded by Bergen Street on the west, Norfolk Street on the east, South Orange Avenue on the south and 12th Avenue on the north.

MR. HARDY: The project has been engineered by the Mayor of Newark which is responsible for the whole City of Newark.

(1) No cooperation from the Health Department pertaining to health hazards and VD:

(2) No cooperation from the Fire Department with the exception of ripping down buildings and homes;

(3) No cooperation from the Police Department as far as easing tensions and enforcing litterbug laws;

(4) Very little cooperation from the Sanitary Department, too much debris is left in the streets and in refuse cans when they pick them up;

(5) No cooperation from absentee landlords.

And I would like to add how can anyone expect a tenant to pour in money to a building to fix it up that he or she does not own when at any time they may be asked to move? This is the responsibility of both the landlord and absentee landlord.

(6) Very little cooperation from the Welfare Department but it is trying.

At one of the previous hearings, the Director of the Fire Department showed charts on and gave information on the high fire rate here in the City of Newark. What he did not explain was the fact that the reason for a lot of this is not due to the tenants but due to nature and the lack on the part of the Fire Department because in no home do they equip them with fire extinguishers in the event a blaze arises, in no event do the Fire Department send their inspectors around to the various homes to see if the homes are overloaded with electricity and what have you. And taking all of this which I think is enough into consideration, I do not think that the Fire Director is being fair in making his analysis.

I would like now to go to the Police Department. The Police Department speaks about very high crime rate which it goes without saying is purposely engineered. It is very strange that around election time all types of arrest can be made and will be made. At all other times, it is very lax, as if one would tell me or you, "Look, go ahead, do what you want to do, we will worry about it later. But when the later comes, then we will throw the book at you and make a public mockery out of you."

The Police Department who is also supposed to be [illegible] the people, by the people and to help the people when the people are in the right have the audacity--

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Chairman--

MR. HARDY: -- have the audacity--

[illegible]: Excuse me, Mr. Hardy. Mr. Chairman, this is not anywhere near the issue being discussed here tonight and I would rather the speaker come [illegible] orally to the area which you [illegible].

[illegible]: He talked yesterday to

speak about the blight and the crime in that area.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Mr. Hardy, will you continue, please?

MR. WALKER: Sir, the many issues that Mr. Hardy is speaking of here, even though not directly related in the blight hearing, you brought in the crime rise in the City of Newark here through many of your --

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: You are out of order and Mr. Hardy is doing a good job.

MR. WALKER: Mr. Hardy has relinquished this moment here--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Mr. Hardy, please go back to the microphone.

MR. WALKER: Well, will you not tell him what is germane here?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Will you continue back to the mike and continue with what you were doing?

MR. WALKER: And continue very slowly.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: You are doing all right, Mr. [illegible]. Don't let anybody take it away from you.

MR.HARDY: I was told by one of the speakers, by Mr. Bradley, that this does not pertain to the issue. Any time you are representing an organization group and you make statements, when you make statements pertaining to this, I think this is within the realm of that. I am only acting on what I had heard in this hearing. Now, if it was possible to give a breakdown on the crime rate or fire rate, I do not see why it is not possible to give a breakdown on what causes this.

When I was interrupted, I used the word "audacity." I would like for the record to have it stricken and instead I would like to say that the Police Department [illegible] unknown to the public at this point to tape the hearings in a confidential stage. I do not think that this is being fair to the people who are here in sincerity.

I would like to quote from a news clipping. "The Housing Authority records show 12,000 families in the last 16 years were placed."

The Executive Director of the Housing Authority has stated many, many times that there is a yearly turnover of 1,000 or more. Now, the school that I went to, 12,000 families over a 16 year period, if you were basing it by the year, does not amount to 1,000 a year--let me correct that--what I meant to say was what happened to four of those 16 years? What happened to the turnover in four of those 16 years if the rate is 1,000 per year? That means for four years nothing happened according to what he is saying.

. . The Executive Director of the Housing Authority, who stated that they would probably, in the early fall--which gave no specific time or fall or year--said that he would get up, said that offices would be set up in the medical site for relocation. Now, men, when they say, "probably," that could be next to never. The NHA Committee which has not been set up as far as anyone knows--this committee we set up--should involved people living in the area who will be affected by the results and all true

ming available space to move should be carried by this committee.

Mr. Samuel Warren spoke on rent adjustments. We, the people, are concerned as to: (1) how long does it take to get a rent adjustment; (2) How long after one receives this adjustment fee does it last; (3) If a person can only afford $60 or less for rent per month and their rent in any spaces cost more than $60, after the rent adjustment fee of $500 has been used up, where do they get moneys to pay thereafter?

And before I go any further, is there a possibility of getting any answers that I could take back to the community on any of the above questions that I asked?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Have you completed your presentation, sir?

MR. HARDY: This was only a question, sir. I said is there a possibility of getting answers?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: No, sir, because we are just simply taking the notes and the presentation.

MR. HARDY: "New units not a reality." There was an article in the paper quoting from the Housing Authority executive. There would be at least 836 units of proposed low rise public housing. He gave the names of each church or company who would build or be the so-called agents of those units. One of the churches mentioned in the article has been waiting over two years just to get the property in which it was supposed to build on. Furthermore, the property is still in ownership of the original buyer, keeping in mind the City will buy the property first, then sell it to the agent in mind. This could take years or whenever the City feels like moving on it. I think the committee that is set up to determine whether the medical site area is blighted or not should also check all said available property for building new units is available and also see to it that the building of these units take place before the medical [illegible] up.

[illegible] the city officials are not [illegible] the medical site,

the medical school here for the best interests of the people but for their own personal gains in exploitation of ethnic groups. I would also like to prove to this committee that many statements made by the Housing Director, Mr. Danzig, are false statements and these facts that I have are based on his own employees.

Tuesday, June 13, at a hearing, upon the recess of this hearing which was at 105, I, as a researcher--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Pardon me, on June 13 of what year?

MR. HARDY: 1967.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Thank you.

MR. BRADLEY: Excuse me a moment.

Mr. Chairman, if you please, there is conversation going on outside that door. Would you please ask them to move to the side, please?

CHAIRMAN: COCUZZA: Will you please close the [illegible]

[illegible]y, Mr. Hardy, there are too [illegible]s outside competing with you.

Hardy

You may continue.

MR. HARDY: On June 13, 1967, at a blight hearing at the first recess, 1:05 P.M., I, as a researcher, went to various Housing Authority Headquarters and applied for material based on the amount of housing units available at the present and as near the future as they could give me. The figures that I received were as follows: At this point the only opening in public housing are 4½ room apartments which, over the whole City of Newark, is only 25. There is no vacancy--and I was told there is very little turnover--in any area of families with four or more children because those who have the apartments now refuse to move because it is too hard for them to get spaces elsewhere. I was also told there is no such thing as an accurate or yearly turnover in public housing. This assumption can only be made at the end of a year, not at the beginning of a year. The present waiting list at this point is somewhere in the range of 1,000 families.

It was also stated that various new

units were going up which, there again, I will say is not so at this point. The earliest any unit--and there again I quote from the Housing Authority officials--the earliest any unit will be completed--and that is for elderly people--will be in December of 1967. The building of the medical site is supposed to start in September of 1967. Where are the people who are going to be displaced going to go between the months of September and December when the first unit will not be completed until December? That is a three month lapover.

Last [illegible] evening--I won't stress names, it is [illegible] that way--I asked somebody sitting up on the panel, "Was it worth all of [illegible]?" The statement given to me was, "You, it was." That puzzled me when this was told to me because like my [illegible] about genesis, only if this [illegible] on not being a blighted area w[illegible] told [illegible].

[illegible] saying

that I learned one thing and that is if you believe in something, you really believe in it, you have to be willing to die for it. And it is only through this that the Italian-American, Irish-American, Jewish-American, every American but supposedly the Negro-American has in some way shed blood and achieved their goals, their land and their prosperity.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Pardon the interruption, please, Mr. Hardy. 30 minutes for your presentation has expired. You have 10 additional minutes for summation, please.

MR. HARDY: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: You are welcome.

MR. HARDY: I would also like to state to the panel, there again dealing with the proposed area, I have kids which I teach and, God forbid, it hurts me to have to lie to those children in telling them, "Be nice, things will change." It hurts me. And I do this

played the role of God Almighty and you make the decision that we of all of the ethnic groups have to live by and like it has been stated throughout this hearing, you have to live with your conscience. Now, I know some people do not have a conscience. They could care less about anything so long as they get what they want. It was evidence of that displayed here.

I would like to also say that some of the distinguished members on the panel, since I have been sitting in the audience, have gotten so disgusted and so unconcerned about what the public has to say that they cannot help from showing it. They are actually showing us that they are not interested.

When I went to your schools, because it was the only ones I had to go to, one of the things [illegible] was to always look in a person's eye and you can almost distinguish and tell what type of person that is, whether they are sincere in what they are saying or whether they are sincere in what they are saying. I am proud

of myself to see that I have held the attention of all of the panel throughout my speech as I leave myself with this thought, that something that I have said must be of some interest and if it is of some interest, think of what it could be to a multitude of people.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Thank you very much, Mr. Hardy. It was a nice presentation.

The next speaker is Mr. Louis M. Mazzucca, please.

Is he here?

COLONEL HASSIN: Mr. Chairman, you remember you said we would use the people that are here.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Just a moment, please.

Is Mr. Mazzucca here?

MR. MAZZUCCA: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Please come forward.

MR. [illegible]: Gentlemen, my name

is Louis N. Mazzucca.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: What is your address, please?

MR. MAZZUCCA: I have been a life resident--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Where do you live?

MR. MAZZUCCA: 123 Parker Street, Newark, New Jersey, and I resided before that for 12 years between the years of 1951 to 1961 at Stephan Crane Village which is a low income housing project and I resided there for 12 years and I was one of the presidents of the tenant council while I was residing there for four years.

First of all, I want you to realize the fact that I have lived in a low income-- I am repeating myself--low income housing project for 12 years from 1951 to 1963, namely, the Stephan Crane Village which is situated near the Clara Maass Hospital. Therefore, I honestly believe that I am in a position to speak about the features and the system under which these projects are governed and domineered over by the Federal,

State and local Housing Authorities.

I have reached a conclusion that the tenants who reside in these projects are living under an unAmerican, undemocratic and unconstitutional set of rules and regulations that have been put into force by an autonomous body of housing authorities who possess the right at the present time to check and recheck every movement that a tenant makes. They are checked while they are living in these houses, so-called low rent and low income housing projects. Every penny that they earn has to be accounted for and the rents are increased or decreased accordingly.

When our great President, late and great President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, originated the idea of these projects, they were built and operated in a way which was very fair to the tenants and the top rent during his time was no more than $45 a month and every project during his regime [illegible] high and every [illegible] to possess their own [illegible] the present

regime--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: [illegible]--

[illegible]: [illegible]e me, sir.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Pardon the interruption, please.

[illegible]CA: [illegible]

[illegible] COCUZZA: Please remember [illegible] public hearing.

[illegible]UCCA: Sir?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: This is a public hearing--

MR. MAZZUCCA: Yes, it is a public hearing.

[illegible]I COC[illegible]A: --on the area in question and you are asked to stick to the [illegible].

[illegible]: [illegible]. Well, I am sticking to the subject because of the fact that I am s[illegible]; of the projects once they are completed and what is to be expected of these projects once they are completed.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Just for your information--

[illegible]. [illegible] CA: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: --Mr. Mazzucca,

and the info[illegible]tion of all, you are invited here--

MR. [illegible]: Yes, as an American--

CHAIRMAN [illegible]: All of you, not just you alone, all of you, every individual has a[illegible] Those who speak on any subject which is ir[illegible]--

[illegible]. It is not irrelevant, [illegible].

[illegible]: The Housing Authority is talking about how good they are.

MR. MAZZUCCA: It pertains to the troubles that these people will face in the Central Ward like we are facing right now in the [illegible] Ward and in the Columbus Homes.

[illegible].

[illegible]: May I continue, sir?

[illegible]: Order, please.

Let the gentleman continue.

MR. [illegible]ZZA: May I continue, please?

[illegible] MAZZUCCA: Yes, go ahead.

MR. [illegible]: It is amazing and unbelievable that many tenants who are on welfare living on these projects are paying

as high as $109 to $115 a month rent paid by the City, State and Federal Welfare Agencies. The Housing Authorities have these tenants coming and going because when they are working they go according to their earnings and-- excuse me--when they are not employed and forced to go on relief, the authorities scale the rent according to the amount of children in the family and the more children you have the more rent you pay.

I say the more children you have, the less rent you should pay because that is more of a burden upon the breadwinner.

It is really unbelievable to think that we here in Newark have so many wide open spaces in the area of Branch Brook Park to build these projects, hospitals and schools, yet the politicians or housing authorities tear down blocks and blocks of homes to make way for these people. With the proposed medical school or housing [illegible] to be built in [illegible] will mean relocating [illegible] people who reside in this

area right now. These folks will be forced to move into the suburban areas of Newark, outskirts of Newark or crowd themselves in the congested parts of Newark. They will be moving into every Ward of our City as much as they do not desire to do so.

These Afro-Americans desire to live and reside as not themselves, therefore, the only answer to the problem is to build any new Federal, State or school buildings in the wide open spaces of our breezy and ideal [illegible] or county parks that exist within the boundaries of our City.

Did I not take 30 minutes? I am through, sir.

God bless you and thank you.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: The next speaker is Mr. Edward Howell.

COUNCILMAN [illegible], if you will remember [illegible]

[illegible] Mr. Howell here?

[illegible] Howell here of 604 South 10th Street. His name was just recently [illegible]

[illegible] If you will remember,

Mr. Chairman, you gave Mr. Richardson and I permission to use the speakers who are here to facilitate the meeting, those here ready to proceed.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Those who have to go to work and for whom we have cards?

COLONEL HASSIN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Would you step forward and give your name and address, please?

MRS. YOUNG: My name is Mary Young, 65 Hillside Avenue in Newark.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: What is your name again?

MRS. YOUNG: Mary Elizabeth Young.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Do we have a card with your name on it?

MRS. YOUNG: Yes, the card should be up there.

[illegible]: Thank you.

MRS. [illegible]. Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board and the rest of you, I am here this afternoon representing the black people of Newark and any place else where this same situation is going on. Before I begin, I

would [illegible] to you in part from the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

"****nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.'

Please take heed in that last part, "just compensation."

As a member of the group that conducted the survey mentioned yesterday in a speech given by William Wolfe, Executive Di[illegible] of--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: A little louder, please.

MRS. YOUNG: I came across a very strange thing and I was not the only one. Approximately seven out of the 10 families that I interviewed had no knowledge of the fact that a Red site was being built in the area, they had no knowledge of the fact that they would have to move and, furthermore, they had no knowledge that they were going to be relocated. So, in other words, the only thing I could suggest, we have took advantage of [illegible] people and the way that

this [illegible] were down, you kicked them in the side. If anyone should have known about this Med site area when it started, it should have been these tenants in the Colonial Road so that they could speak their minds just as you have spoken yours. The majority of absentee landlords that you may have notified to tell their tenants that they would have to move most likely didn't behind the fact that they would be losing tenants maybe out of two-family homes and that would be a great loss to them.

I know for myself, I have seen what' it is like to live over there. Something could be done, housing could be put up. The problem is like Darwin's Theory of Evolution. Darwin believed that man evolved from ape and in this it went through stages. It was a cycle. Man started from ape and eventually he evolved into man. Thus this situation is like a cycle but the problem is different. This is a never ending cycle.

[illegible] start off with man and his family. The second cycle, man moves. He moves from slum area number one to slum

area number two. He takes his kids from overcrowded school number one to overcrowded school number two. This leaves the people in the overcrowded and slum area of number two to raise their voices for better schools. That in turn causes the great white fathers of City Hall to raise their voice to raise the taxes which is being done now. So, now we are back to man and his family and the cycle is still unbroken. He can't afford to stay in slum number two, pay his high rent--and the roaches and the rats are so bad, I don't see why they shouldn't be paying half of it--and then he has to pay high prices for food and clothes for his family and then pay the high taxes. Man and his family have no other alternative but to move to slum number three. And right there the cycle has not been broken. It is continuing on and on.

I have a daughter and I do not want her to come up like this. I don't want her to go through what I am going through. I

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: A little louder, please.

MRS. YOUNG: And the only way that this cycle can be broken is not by putting up parking lots, not by putting up insurance companies, not by putting up another Wal-Mart House, put up housing for these people and that is the only way this cycle can be broken.

I just read from a book I am reading which to me makes a lot of sense: "All the cities of the earth should rise up against the man who ruin one." And you are doing nothing by building one.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Thank you very much, Mrs. Young.

The next speaker is Mr. Richardson.

COLONEL HASSIN: He also has to go to work. This is what you requested and this is what we are doing.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: The Chair will call--

MR. SMITH: My name is Therman Smith. I live at 61 Hillside Avenue, Newark, New Jersey, and I am very aware of

the rules, I am only allowed 30 minutes--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: You are out of order.

MR. SMITH: I want to let you know that I am only going to speak 10 minutes because if I speak more than 10 minutes, I might have to puke. Can I go on? Could I have the floor, please?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Please sit down.

MR. SMITH: May I have the floor?

MR. RICHARDSON: This is Therman Smith that had to go to work.

MR. SMITH: I have to go to work, else I won't have nowhere to live before you move me. I want this opportunity to speak.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Please sit down.

MR. SMITH: Why must I sit down?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Because you will sit down until I am ready to call you.

MR. S... Well, you be ready to call me.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: What is your name?

... SMITH: My name is Therman Smith. I am a black American and I want to speak.

I am tired of white Americans telling me I can't speak.

[redacted]N COCUZZA: Will you please be quiet?

MR. S[redacted]: I can't be quiet. I have b[redacted]iet too long. I have been quiet too long. All I want to do is talk.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: I don't even have your name, sir.

MR. SMITH: I will tell you my name. It is Therman Smith, Therman Smith of a BA Degree, black American.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Do we have your card here?

MR. SMITH: My card is there. All I ask is for an opportunity to speak.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Where do you live, Mr. Smith?

MR. SMITH: 61 Hillside Avenue in the glorious City of Newark.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: There is no problem. Go ahead.

MR. SMITH: It was no problem from the beginning.

[redacted]: Only a little too

[illegible] All right. Thank you [illegible]cher.

I haven't got too much to say. I guess you will be glad because I will not take the full 30 minutes. As I said before, if I stay here longer then 30 minutes, I will be forced to puke because I come here very reluctantly because I think every single one sitting there is incapable, unable to understand what the black man feels, so I feel as though I am talking to a blank wall. But, really, what amazed me here is the wonderful flags up there. You know, it takes me back to the days when I went to school and my teacher said, "This is the [illegible] Flag, equality for all," and to me then it was a great big laugh and today the [illegible] Flags are still behind you. It is a great big laugh to me. Even when you run the [illegible] Indians out of the country, the American Flag was there. It is a big laugh. But really, what bothers me is when you ran and moved the Indians like cattles, you had reservations for them but for

the black people you haven't got a darned [illegible] of a lot of fancy words.

I have heard people at these hearings, [illegible], speak about [illegible]. I am a very old man and [illegible]rs are going to do this if it happens. You see? I don't like throwing rocks but if I see youngsters throwing rocks, I will have to throw rocks because I don't want them to think I am one of these responsible Negroes. And if I throw a damn rock and if I see Denzig, he is going to be the first one.

There are just a couple of more things I wo[illegible] to go over.

What really makes me feel very bad is what is going to happen to our black children? This I wonder about. Are you going to move them from one area to another area without creating schools? This is highly ridiculous.

And I heard that the doctor yesterday make a statement--I believe it is from Maryland Medical Center--about the disease and the crime rates that Negroes possess.

To me, I really think he is an idiot and I wouldn't want him to cut my corns because there is not only problems here among black people, narcotic problems, there are narcotic problems really in the suburban areas and they are beginning to get word about it. And something else, I never hear people talk about--when they talk about narcotics, black people don't bring narcotics into the country, the white man brings it in . And when this doctor, if you care to call him a doctor--I don't, I don't care to call him a doctor--when he talks about the venereal diseases, I think it was a very bad idiotic statement. [illegible] hurt the city if this is [illegible] section, [illegible] we will only contain [illegible], will put the things together, and so I can't go along with these statistics whatsoever.

[illegible] about the police officials, [illegible] so rudely interrupted and cut the [illegible], he was willing to listen when the police come out with their

about [illegible] as of the statistics [illegible] presented and if I was on that panel I would be very skeptical about the Newark Police. Anybody who is sneaky enough to hide a tape recorder in the room at a public hearing I can have no respect for them. So, their statistics to me means nothing, not a damn thing.

I must get back to this doctor. If I was on this here panel that you are sitting on--if you call it a panel, I think it is a circus, really--I would recommend [illegible] that perhaps would be out of your jurisdiction. First I would recommend that you get rid of this here doctor from the City Hosp[illegible] because he has been [illegible] for a long time and people can't get treatments there and you should get rid of him. I think you should get rid of this Danzig, this tyrant--that is all he is--for creating such a slum situation in Newark. And I have no faith myself in nothing sitting up there. I think you are puppets, I think you are incapable of making

of understanding the problems of the Negro people. I would feel much better even if you had a responsible Negro, a few of them up there like this here Booker, where he come from.

Now, you people sitting there, you are going to tell me what the hell my people need and I think I know what you need, you see, because I am a God-fearing man and I think God did a good job but for some reason he didn't put horns on your head because you people have got the world today in a hell of a mess because of borders and because of land. What you are doing all around the world, you are attempting to do to black people today and I can't speak to you no longer but I will speak to the black people.

If you can send your sons to die in Vietnam for what you believe in, you had better let them die here. You have got to stop the white man from taking your land.

You are no longer a God to us anymore, you are not a God. In fact, I

think you are inferior to me because you are not capable of thinking and we are tired of your making decisions for us.

This is what I want to say. I have no summation. Thank you very much, Mr. Cocuzza.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: The next speaker is Miss Richardson.

Is Miss Richardson here?

Please come to the mike.

MISS RICHARDSON: My name is Genevieve Richardson. I live at 34 Bruce Street, Newark, New Jersey. I am a Democratic District leader in the 17th District of the Central Ward. I do live in the blighted area which is to be torn down and destroyed.

The thing that bothers me most is this: I am one of the people that worked for Mr. Addonizio's campaign and he preached about building housing for the poor people, elementary schools, high schools. Where are they? The next thing you know he is b[illegible] college. I [illegible] is good

but [illegible] he does not need 150 acres to build it. And then if he did build it [illegible] schools [illegible] high schools, where is he going to get his students? Are you importing them from other states, borrowing them [illegible] have in the City Hospital who can't even speak [illegible]? If you tell them you have a pain, they don't understand you. Is this what he is trying to build? We don't need this.

There is not one of you men sitting on that [illegible] can tell me that this medical college will be a benefit to anyone in the City of Newark except the one that is building it. Now, I know everyone is going to get a [illegible], yes.

[illegible] I remember a former Mayor, Mr. Carlin, once told me, said, "Genevieve," took a pencil and paper and made a ring. He said, "This is a pie. When the pie is cut, you will get your slice." I never got it. [illegible] this may be [illegible] a coke. I don't even see the cir[illegible].

a vicious attack upon the people in the Central Ward. I admit some of the houses need to be torn down because they were a disgrace, they were rotten, but not all of them. There was a lot of people that invested their life savings in those homes and they were given a price, take it or leave it. There is a lot of people, my phone rings day and night, "Where are we going to move? Can you find me a place to stay?" A lot of people have to even move out of the State of New Jersey, not only the City of Newark, because they have got no place to go. They have to leave their [illegible]. This is improving the City of Newark? You are a bunch of liars, that is what you are. You are not doing that for the benefit of the people. And I can tell you how you are doing it. You are breaking up the black vote. It is too much power in the Central Ward. We have gotten to the place we can place, we can put you and take you out. That is what you are afraid of. But I come say to you you run us out of one corner, we will run into another and we

believe that you gentleman there say that you put a medical college there and you are going to give everybody in the City of Newark a clean bill of health. If that is true, why isn't City Hospital well staffed? They don't even have a clean sheet to put on the bed. You stay there wet and stinking. You don't even have the proper personnel there working.

All right, if you want to build a medical college, I will name a few spots for you. What about SCHO up there? Half of the hospital is closed down. That is a beautiful site. Put your medical college there.

All right, the Dodge family wants to give you 160 acres out in Madison. You didn't want [illegible]. No, you wanted the Central Ward to build your medical college.

The largest one you have is in Detroit, Michigan, 27 acres housing 2700 [illegible] 270 beds. Explain that.

COLONEL KASSIN: He can't explain it.

[illegible]: I [illegible] question now and I want to talk about something to you. I don't put nothing on pencil and paper because you can't erase what I got up here. I am even ashamed to even walk in my neighborhood because I am one of the people that went around and told them, "This man is going to build new houses for you to live in." He didn't say while he [illegible] looking [illegible] nobody he was [illegible]. He told us, "I am for the people."

What makes a city any more beautiful than [illegible], a little park, [illegible] children to go to? Is anything more beautiful than that? Build your [illegible], but build it, but don't take everybody's home to build it.

I don't have nobody answer me. Somebody answer me, please.

A VOICE: They can't answer you. They are [illegible]: [illegible], only after

the evidence, all of the evidence is in and has been evaluated by this [illegible] we have all the answers for any questions that have been presented by all of the speakers. Please be assured of that.

MR. R[illegible] Well, I am going [illegible]

[illegible] Please continue.

[illegible]: These are the politicians where [illegible] their thumbs [illegible] around me, see, election time is coming again and somebody is going to be sorry.

This was a vicious attack because some of the people just realized what was happening to them. [illegible] the families you promised me [illegible] for [illegible] offenses and all that kind of stuff, some of them don't even know [illegible] it, they don't even have the money to move. What happened to this money?

A VOICE: They have got it in their pocket.

MRS. R[illegible] to this money? [illegible] front

door and the people have no money to move with and if they had it, some of them have no place to go. Now, what happened?

A VOICE: They are building fences around the vacant lots, honey.

MISS RICHARDSON: I don't need this, sugar, it is all right. I don't need it because I know it well. I am telling you it is pitiful. You, yourself, each one of you should go out among that area yourselves, don't ask me, go and see for yourselves what is going on. It is a pitiful situation. And I am not here begging for mercy, I am ready to fight. And when I say, "fight," I mean fight. I know a lot of stuff. And it is wrong.

You are not building no medical [illegible] nothing. In the first place, you have got no money to build it with anyway. You are tearing down but you haven't got a Federal penny in your pocket to build nothing and I am praying to God you don't get it. If [illegible] would work with the [illegible] have no veneral [illegible]

[illegible] on. What do you need with [illegible] se here are not doing nothing. On a Sunday you can't even get a doctor.

I am still waiting for some answers. I don't want them tomorrow, I want them now. I think this is the place. If I ask them, you have a right to answer them.

[illegible]N COCUZZA: I regret very much, ma'am, I must repeat myself that the evidence must all be completed in order to evaluate and get proper answers for any question that has been projected by each individual speaker.

Please continue.

MISS RICHARDSON: Well, that is not my answer but, however, thank you and I am not ready to sit down yet. I have got a little bit more, a little bit more to say.

I am wondering if there is anybody here going to run for public office in the next election. I would like to know who they are.

[illegible] I do [illegible], please? I just have a

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: I didn't get the question.

[illegible]: I said is there [illegible] at the moment who is [illegible] office? I would like to [illegible].

[illegible] this audience is a [illegible] for any public office, [illegible].

[illegible] I don't white, how we [illegible]?

[illegible] RICHARDSON: I didn't ask that. I said if there is an individual here, I want him to stand up and speak for himself.

[illegible] There isn't any.

[illegible]: I just wanted to know because I have something for him. I mean, it is a pitiful situation when [illegible] that this man was going [illegible] them and I am one of [illegible] told them just

[illegible] this people come and [illegible] nothing to tell [illegible]. [illegible] this man from [illegible]. I think this is the most vicious thing that ever happened. He even went far enough to let the State to condemn a person's home if he wouldn't sell it. If you are here, a lot of you, if you don't want to sound, listen to me, if they ask you for your home and you don't want to sell it, he has the power to condemn your [illegible] it is, and turn it [illegible] you be?

A VOICE: All you have to do is be white to be vicious.

[illegible]: Just how vicious [illegible]?

A VOICE: Be white.

[illegible]: Now, in the last eight years--I will say two years, at least four housing projects could have been put [illegible] could have some place to stay. Not a rock has been unturned. But as soon as it comes to destroy the Negro population

in the Central Ward, the bulldozer is running night and day. I work nights and I can't sleep all day long because I live three blocks from the City Hospital. You know what I am talking about, 12th Avenue, West Market Street, Bruce Street, Hunterdon Street. You can't even sleep around there. You can't sleep for the people working down at night and the others stealing during the day or night and day, whatever I am trying to say. You know what I mean. They tear down all day and steal at night. The dump trucks are running. And this is what we are supposed to have? This is good government?

As the lady before me spoke, nobody even knew about this. Why wasn't the people asked? Why wasn't it brought to the people? If you want the lottery, you put it on the ballot, if they want bingo games, they put it on the ballot, yes and no vote. Nobody know nothing about this. There was no yes or no vote on this. "We are going to do it. [illegible] that." Well, we might not [illegible]

this happened, our Mayor and several others on television, "Why, the Negro in Newark is happy, he is satisfied with what is going on." He didn't say nothing about this college. Two months later it was in the paper that we were being routed out of our homes. Yet the Negro was satisfied.

I want to ask each one of you here who is white: How long have you been a Negro? I have been one all my life and I don't know what they are thinking about and what they want, so how do you know?

CHA[illegible] COCOZZA: I would like to give you that answer, ma'am, so everybody will hear.

To be human and have a kindness of heart, have compassion is not necessarily to be black or white.

MISS RICHARDSON: The reason I say this is because this concerns the black man. Is your [illegible] being torn down? So, [illegible] can speak [illegible] because this [illegible] that is happening to us. It

don't make no difference to me about black or white because if they never made a mirror, I would never know I was black. I am proud to be black. God had meant for me to be anything else, he would have made it possible. So, that doesn't make no difference about theory or color. That is not what I am speaking about. You know what I am talking about. You know what I am talking about. See? When I walk down the street, I am just as white as you are. When I go to bed, I am as white as you are. When I wake up in the morning, I am white as you are. This doesnt bother me. The thing I am thinking of as people as a whole in the black area is what has happened to them. This is my concern.

I judge by your name, I don't know what nationality, but you are concerned about them. You have organizations, you take care of one another. Like the Jewish people, the Irish people, the Italian people, so I am a [illegible] the fact being called a Negro because I am black so call me black because that is

I don't have no fight. See, I like a fight and

Everybody is standing there looking at me. I see 12 pair of eyes looking at me, a few more. Nobody is saying

nice enough.

s are scared.

t is all right. They don't care.

I would like to know, though, are they going to build any homes before they erect the school? A few h to make the college look beautiful? n't leave it standing out there by itself, you know, because I

I love it, and I

talking here today,

who will be glad to tear my house down. But I will move up in that Vailsburg section with him. That is for sure.

ty funny they didn't

didn't East Ward or the

Are they going to build any homes for the people so I can tell these people something when they call my home? Are we going to have houses built for the people to live in?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: I must repeat, ma'am, that the answers to your questions and all other questions proposed will be --please, may I have quiet--

MISS RICHARDSON: I guess with the people that are moving or have to move and have no funds, what happens to them? Can you answer that? This is the thing I am being bothered with night and day. We have no money to move with.

: May I be permitted to finish my answer to you, please?

interrupted.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: That is all right.

A VOICE: Don't apologize.

MISS RICHARDSON: I am really not. I am saying it to be nice.

[illegible]: Any answer will be contained in the record of our meeting after we evaluate all of the material in the formal presentation and [illegible] of the minutes of the [illegible] future when this will be available will contain the answers you are looking for, ma'am.

[illegible] I have a point of [illegible] May I raise a point of [illegible]

[illegible]N COCUZZA: Please don't [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

: Is it possible that I could yield, let the follow--

CHAIRMAN COHEN: I do not want you to yield, I want you to continue.

I would like you to

I would like to raise this

CHAIRMAN COHEN: It is up to the Chair. I am sorry.

For three or four days I have been here and you have raised one question that all your answers will be contained in your final report. Now I want to know one thing: Every question every question asked here during , are you going to a questions?

: I really talk and I think I have a right

A VOICE: Sir, if he is going to Chair the if you can be quiet all

the other times, you can be quiet while I am talking to him because I am not talking to you. You are not the Chairman.

[illegible] N COCUZZA: Please be seated, sir.

Please continue, Miss Richardson.

MISS RICHARDSON: Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say this to you: As you take the Fifth Amendment so much, there isn't much more I can say. As I said before, I like a fight and it isn't too much sparks up here because you guys are up there but you are not saying anything. I know what the people want out here. So, I leave this to you: I do not believe that you will build your medical college. In fact, I know you won't. Don't ask me how I know but I know you won't build it. In order to build your college, you will have to build some homes for these people to stay in first and I have just got my answer standing on this floor. Your medical college isn't there. That is all I have to say.

[redacted]: Thank you very much.

The next speaker is Juanita Moore, 117 Newton Street.

MISS MOORE: My name is Juanita Moore, 117 Newton Street, County Committeewoman, 19th District, my whole complete district and there is nothing wrong with the property in the 19th District. The majority of the people that live there own their own homes, there is bats, the area in the 19th District is not rat and roach infested, maybe a few houses. [redacted] people [redacted] to go, there is so many different pieces of land that are torn down in Newark and nothing is being built. Some of them made a supervisor. A college should be built on land where there is a lot of grass and a lot of trees. You know that would be

[illegible] Branch Brook Park. [illegible]

[illegible] beautiful trees and [illegible] could make a beautiful [illegible] from the City [illegible]

[illegible] to live in this area [illegible] the way things are going. Maybe some of them are paying [illegible] of rent, maybe some people [illegible], but listen to this: The [illegible]ns today and the majority of [illegible] that are holding any [illegible]ntown or anywhere grew up [illegible] out of that area. I know for a fact myself because I have been there quite a while. You have got people like Addonizio himself that came out of part of that area, maybe up a little higher or maybe over a little to the right but he grew up [illegible] there. Now it is turning out that that area is considered blighted. When he lived there it was a beautiful area.

I own property here and if I buy another house, I am going to have children to live there but the people that live in Newark don't want children living and I know they have to live somewhere. I have a family on my second floor and the the woman has to children in order but she has 10 children. say they don't want children are their property. How do you to come in and live or unless they are investigated to see what type of house that they are bringing their children up in? Where will these people go with the 10 kids? Where will all of the other people go with the six and seven and

eight childr . .Not is being built, these big monstrosities. How you call projects? The people that li e in the area now can live in the projects but they don't choose to. There is only one way in and one way out. If there is a fire, everybody is trapped. The elevators break down, they have got to walk up to the 12th floor. Yet and still, you know what we want, you know what is best for us, you are deciding for us.

[illegible] ever since I was [illegible] my own decisions, being [illegible] place where it is [illegible] box of worship, I [illegible] should be able to voice their opinion.

[illegible] Richardson said before, [illegible] for someone to vote for [illegible], lottery, yes or no for this, even increases in pay for certain police or fi[illegible] or some other type of [illegible]

I spent $5,000 remodeling. The next thing I know, here it is in the paper that they are going to tear my property down. Now, [illegible] dimwit. We don't even [illegible] to downtown [illegible] you are because we work with the people and they don't even tell us what is going on.

[illegible] are so many people that live [illegible] that are remodeling, that [illegible] up, that don't want to sell, that are satisfied where they are. They want to bring up their children, they want [illegible] a happy home. They are used to the neighborhood. They enjoy themselves there.

You say, "the environment, the neighborhood." Any family that lives in any house lives in the house, they don't live out in the street. I don't care what type people or who they are, if you raise [illegible] and if you intend to mean well, you can live anywhere.

Now, there are a few white people

that live in the area. They like it there and they stayed. Maybe some of them have been down here and voiced their opinions too.

I have no difference with any white person. The only thing I feel is this: Accept people for what they are and for what they know. The majority of the people that live in that area are educated.

We have a State Senator sitting right up there in that area. We have a lot of other politicians sitting up in that area that are satisfied, people that have businesses that have been there for years, some people have a growing and a prosperous business. They don't want to move. You have areas downtown in the Neck that are in worse condition and in worse shape than this area itself and yet and still you want to say this is a blighted area, that this area must come down. To satisfy whom? Now, money is being spent really for nothing. The people that live there that do want to advance themselves, [illegible] native, that want to have their

[redacted] in that area are satisfied where they are. If they weren't, they would have moved. You wouldn't have to ask people to move to another area. When people become dissatisfied with the area that they live in, they move themselves.

I am quite sure that if you lived in an area and all of a sudden you got [redacted], no one would have to [redacted], "All right, you have to go because we are going to tear this down because we are going to build this." If you wanted to move yourself, you would move on your own. This is expected of everybody. You live where you want to live, you supposedly, and you are happy where you are until the time [redacted] you feel otherwise.

[redacted] women, elderly women, maybe teen-agers taking care of children while they work doing little chores for them. [redacted] people. [redacted] going to take care of [redacted] when they move to

another neighborhood?

The average person today, the average colored person today that works--I am talking about the men that works--is underpaid. So, naturally, his wife has to work to supplement for that which he has now brought home and someone has to take care of there kids. Now when we tell a family they have to move, they have to get out, the woman is in a terrible predicament because now she has to find somebody new to care for her kids and maybe wherever she takes them they wouldn't want any children there in the building so they wouldn't be satisfied there.

It [illegible] years of planning and time to determine what is to become of one sect of people. This thing came too sudden, it came too fast. Everybody gets an ultimatum, you [illegible]ve ultimatums. We have so much time, we [illegible]d to time, we [illegible] length of time

...hat live there don't want to live in the housing project. Like Miss Richardson said, it would be a nice thing to have a three or four family walk-up building in that area. That would be just what the City of ... would need. In low housing, you have it fi... people that are on welfare and ...--I should say ... with a ... can move into these ... low race of pay. Now you ... have a man and a woman is working and ... are paying $95 a month rent and they have about five or six children and they move into a project area and you are going to sit there and tell me they are still going to pay $95 a month? ... you calculate how much the man ... how much the woman ... it together their ... I know because I have seen it happen. Now, maybe these extra $2) that ... working a week they ..., decent clothes, ... for the children and they

[illegible] toward the children's [illegible] this idea of this medical [illegible] to prevent the [illegible] going because some of the people that live in the area don't pay as much rent as you or some of the people in better neighborhoods do but with [illegible] they can save and get ahead so that they can have the best for their kids. But even this is being destroyed.

[illegible], it is terrible to have children to grow up ignorant and today a high school education is nothing because in order to get a good and a decent job, and most times a Civil Service job calls for a college degree or a certain amount of college education and this is more or less pushing us further and further away.

You have never seen colored people rebel in the City of Newark against something as you would say small as a medical school but I can see it coming. This is going to be a catastrophe. And it shouldn't

things that are done,

that they are tearing

to build this medical

when it is put to

knocked down. The

that live in the City of

fitting anything,

especially the ones in the area, because the child that comes out of school that is going to attend this school, this medical so-called school has to be a graduate from high school, has to be a graduate from college, have a certain mark or rank or standing before they can even be admitted plus only so many from the City of Newark are going to be taken because they are going to go by counties, then you are going to have them coming from out of the state. But yet you still now are telling us that this is for us. Well, tell me this: You are going to give our children private tutors then. Is that right? So that our kids can come up in

, to not in this college? Am I

?

A VOICE: They have to give us a loan too because we don't have it to get

VOICE: Now, the government is giving loans for college students but someone here is going to guarantee that they make the grade. Am I right? Some people and some people don't and some [illegible] can [illegible] any college they want to, [illegible] finishing school they want to because people like you, your money talks, but our money [illegible]ds just like yours but we don't have as much. So we are doing the [illegible] with what we have, which is little. And all of a sudden someone comes around and pushes us and tells us that they are going to make us do better. Now, how can we [illegible] any better than what we/[illegible] trying to advance now. We want for ourselves just like you want for you. We want the best out of life just like you want the best out of life.

We feel we can make our own decisions,

we feel we need no one to make decisions for us. Now we are in a situation where we have no say-so, we have no voice, we have no opinion. That happened back in grandma's days. This is not slavery time. You don't tell us to get back because we rebel. We are too educated. The average colored child that lives in that area today is educated and I am quite sure if you asked the children if they wanted to move, they will tell you no too. And children are important today because there will come a time when one of our children will be sitting up there just like you, sitt[illegible] like you giving [illegible] it is going to [illegible] the money but we [illegible] the know-how and there [illegible] we are going [illegible] down now, [illegible] out of the picture but [illegible] to be made right. [illegible] are over here fighting in V[illegible] fought in this other war

and as soon as they get over here to the Golden Gate Bridge, the other ones, they don't want to have anything to do with our kind but over there they are eating and sleeping and rolling in the mud together [illegible] want to take us, because we live [illegible] up, we live where we want [illegible].

You live where you want to live, we do what we want to do to a certain extent within the law. Are you within the law? We do what we are supposed to do within the law. There is quite a few [illegible] everybody wants to do but it is against the law.

[illegible] children are going to grow up. The fathers fighting overseas, some of them getting killed, they come home, they get told they have to move too. Some of them live i[illegible] fighting for your co[illegible] telling him what to do.

[illegible] went up to age forty-five for this draft

and ship them, everybody would be on that line for conscientious objectors and the majority of them would not be the colored, they would be the whites.

We are not afraid of dying for a purpose, most of us. I am going to tell you old but I feel are going to o have the best, I not here just to fiddle have a little fun and, you know, move a few things and out little corners and pick up this and swindle that, I am here for a purpose and I believe God put everybody here for a purpose. And it to find out just

e children, you are because they are responsible for being here. So, what you do, you try to make the best for them. in that area best for their kids. but they are

trying to have the best for their children. And I am quite sure if everyone of them had to go but they could see where their children were going to advance and were going to save something and have something decent, they wouldn't mind dying either. But this idea about the City coming and telling different people what to do, "You do this and you do that and you do the other," nobody tells these people that are in their seats that sit on these little panels directly what to do because you have a discussion, you sit down and you discuss and you come to a conclusion and a majority rules.

[illegible] majority has been down here, I am quite sure you have seen them, and the majority has stood here and told [illegible] I am trying today, [illegible] tion of that [illegible] homes for those [illegible] don't we sit down and [illegible] ll voice our [illegible] to some kind of an

[illegible] majority [illegible] parliamentary procedure.

[illegible] of government is [illegible] Why can't [illegible] get up and voice their opinions, so many say this and so many say that and all of it is weighed and then [illegible] to an agreement and a conclusion which means that the majority [illegible]

[illegible] were so ignorant [illegible] do this and they was gonna [illegible] ma'am," and "yes, sir," and do that but, I mean, this is 1967, this is not the 18th Century. [illegible] come before you are not illiterate and you can't hold them back.

So, [illegible] build your little medical college, build [illegible], but before you build it, make sure that these people that you are

[illegible] and are [illegible] built for them--I [illegible], "beans"--[illegible] children to go. [illegible] don't care whether they [illegible] ed or not because if you [illegible] to go to school with' ours, we don't want ours to go to school with yours but give our children decent schools.

The average school today is not up to standard in the City of Newark. You are building something, here you want to build something. Work on the education angle for the schools today. You have got children here in the schools today who are [illegible], two grades behind with the [illegible] in the whole United States? People come from Europe to go to school here in the United States and they are more far advanced. You have got children that come here from the Southern States but yet and still they are supposed to be stupid and they come up here and they get in the schools and they are more intelligent than

even base of $7,000.

Now, we really need schools, we [illegible] teachers are all leaving [illegible] are underpaid. We did [illegible] in Newark at one time. Nobody wants to be a teacher today because the teachers are underpaid, the supervision downtown at the Board of Education is twisted, you have nothing and nobody to go to when you have a problem at the Board of Education. You have got to go through this director to that director, to this vice-president, to this secretary, to this one and before you get through it is all day and they will tell you to come back next week.

Now, we need a system, we need a system down at the Board of Education for our schools, we need better teachers, we need more schools and we need more houses. We don't need the college yet. Now, that can wait. We need more schools, we need better houses, we need--some of these streets that you have in Newark, some of these narrow streets, we need them turned

into one way or ots. Newark isn't such a bad it is not an ugly city. You want to beautify it. It is not that ugly. It is considered now to be one of the best top cities in the country. It is well known. It will never be as famous as New York even though New York is dirtier. Now, if we got those houses built, not projects, houses, and then if we got more schools for our children so that they won't be overcrowded, so that the children could learn more in school, you accomplish things one at a time in order. I feel that after we get the houses and the schools, then is the time to prepare for this medical college. Right now is not the time.

You want to beautify one spot. What about these other spots you have got spaces torn? What about this? You haven't looked across the street and seen this mess you have got over there? You have even got a mess [illegible] and you want to build

[illegible] a big [illegible] so crazy year for the [illegible]

[illegible] lots all over Newark that could be of some use. Some of these places t[illegible]ve torn down, this area around Hillside M[illegible]e, nothing is being [illegible]. [illegible] an area way over here on the [illegible] of West Market Street, [illegible] built. You have different areas going over toward West Runyon Street, nothing is being built. You have a lot of areas in the City of Newark, empty lots, houses have been torn down. Not all of them have been burned, some of them have been torn down. Nothing has been built.

You know, I walk around and I look and I have seen, I have seen only one thing, only one, just one, they are rebuilding Camden Street School. Hurray.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Mrs. Moore, pardon the interruption, you have 10 more minutes for summation, please.

MISS MOORE: 10?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Yes, ma'am.

[illegible] MOORE: Thank you.

A: You are welcome.

[redacted]: They are building one school, Gurden Street. Hurray for them. Everybody is not going to move to that area. Part of the houses in that area have burned down too. There are vacant lots there that houses need to be built. Now, this brand-new school that they are buildi[redacted] breaking down the ground now. Steel is going up. Your ultimatum was I think until March or April of 1968. You have to turn this supposed land over to these educated individuals, so to speak. Now, this brand-new school you have got going up now, I am quite sure it should be completed, the way they are working on it, it should be completed by September maybe, if they work hard enough. That area is considered to be part of the site of the medical college too. Am I right? But yet and still, now you are building this, you are going to get more money for the school when it is built up.

[redacted]? [redacted] They, [redacted] are the [redacted]

You have the Board of Education, when the parents don't send the kids to school, here comes the truant officer and he wants to know why. The children aren't even learning anything and you are paying a truant officer instead of saving money to buy supplies. They don't even have decent books in school. And I have children of my own, I have a little daughter who learned how to print her name and went to the library to get books so she could learn. You will be surprised, children want to learn today, they don't want to be ignorant.

There is something that all of the people in the Central Ward would love to see and that is that the area, the blighted area that you consider blighted--we don't--be made and torn down--if it is torn down and you don't need all of it, just part of it--and the part that you need to tear down isn't even in the diagram--there should be [illegible].

[illegible] school, that Robert Treat [illegible], I think some of you went

to that one too and your fathers and your grandfathers. That is how old and dilapidated? That school needs to be modernized, rebuilt. Now, it used to go up to the ninth grade. Now it goes up to the sixth because the schools are overcrowded. So, when your child graduates from that school, they either go to Seventh Avenue or they go to West Kinney. Now, Seventh Avenue School consists of two buildings. In the wintertime they come out of one building, walk down in the snow to the next building and go into one class and when the bell rings, they come out in the snow again and go out and go down to the other building and go to another class. And it is back and forth in the snow in the wintertime all winter. Now, I have a daug[illegible], I know.

We do need schools in Newark and more than anything else we need decent housing. Now you know what we want, so you [illegible] it to us? We need schools, we need decent housing.

As I said [illegible], Branch Brook Park

is a beautiful site, it is very pretty in the summer, it would make a beautiful campus and it is not too far from the city hospitals. You could build your medical college there. I am quite sure everybody feels the same way that I do.

I am not a violent person, I don't like violence but sometimes you can't help it and this is the time. And we believe in fighting for what we want and if you have a name in mind, you will fight even more.

Everybody is worried about how much money they are going to get for their property. I spent enough money, I know. Nobody is worried about how much money they are going to get. The City is going to come through later anyway. What is the difference? Maybe 10, 15 years from now they are going to come through and tear down. But wait a while, give those people a chance to raise their kids, for crying out loud.

Everybody wants something better. Build your college over in the park, build

us some nice houses, better schools, build us different places where our children can recreate. You want to get rid of crime, build places for the children to play. There is no place for the children to recreate your children and you won't have this crime rate, you won't have this narcotic program. They are brining it into the schools today and if you built bigger and better and put better teachers in this school, you wouldn't have as many delinquents as you have today. Work on what you have now and what you have now will grow into something better for later on. This is the way the world was built and this is the way it should be. So, take what you have now and work with that.

You have got a park over there, work with it, take what you have got now which you have been [illegible]

have got all of up there and no place , when you worry about the crime stealing and when you do this, you will have a beautiful city, you will have your college over there in the park, you will have your beautiful houses, you will have schools that won't we will have better teachers because you are going to see to this. Right? And we will have better people and we will be able to get along because there is nothing like people together, not just in a home, in a community, in a city, but the whole government working together. Where there is strength, there is power and when you split it up you have got a mess.

Now, let's all work together for something that we know is right and we will be a strong force here in the City of Newark.

I am sorry I took up so much time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Thank you very

[illegible] hearing is now adjourned until 7:00 P.M. this evening at which time we will be resuming.

E V E N I N G S E S S I O N

EXAMINER COCUZZA: The hearing will now resume.

There being a quorum, the Chair asks the Secretary to please call the roll.

MR. GIACCHINO: Mr. Bradley.

MR. BRADLEY: Here.

MR. GIACCHINO: Mr. D'Allesio.

MR. D'ALLESIO: Here.

MR. GIACCHINO: Mr. Corrodo.

MR. CORRODO: Here.

MR. GIACCHINO: Mr. McDowell.

[illegible]: Here.

[illegible]: Mr. Federici.

[illegible]ICI: Here.

MR. RICHARDSON: Mr. Chairman, this morning, I think it is a matter of public record that we had to wait an hour and fifteen minutes [illegible]

morning [illegible] that we delay the opening of [illegible] at least 30 minutes.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Mr. Richardson, we are here and--

MR. RICHARDSON: We were here this morning at ten o'clock.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Just a moment. The Chair will ask others to come forward.

Those who have not sent in their name on a card and are present who would like to speak on the subject matter regarding the [illegible] under consideration and those who have not spoken already will please come forward and state your case if you so desire.

Will you please give your name and address, ma'am?

MISS HOLMES: Barbara Holmes, 775 High Street, Newark.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Miss Holmes, so that you will know the time element regarding your presentation, you will be permitted 30 minutes to make your presentation and [illegible] to sum up.

[illegible]. It is now

[redacted]: I represent the [redacted] Essex Chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality.

[redacted]ewal and Civil Rights--[redacted]thing have to do with the [redacted]s will chain themselves to radiator pipes to prevent demolition of Negro housing for the medical schools. Civil Rights groups will picket the medical school site or housing authority offices to demand changes in official policies. These acti[redacted]ate that while the civil rights movement has included many issues in American life, it will now tackle the urban renewal problem for it is the Negro more than any other citizen who has felt the impact of urban renewal. Since 1949, renewal has fallen over $10,000,000,000 in public and private funds into the clearance and redevelopment of blighted areas in the United States cities. Up to the end of 1966, more than 160,000 families, about 500,000 persons, had been displaced from over

[illegible] in the United States and [illegible] nearly two-thirds were [illegible] the next decade, about [illegible] families are going to be displaced and at least half of them will be Negro.

[illegible] in central cities, [illegible] of dislocation more [illegible] his numbers than the white. Whe[illegible] 1900 22.6 per cent of the nation's p[illegible], 35 out of a hundred [illegible] in the urban communities. In 1960 there were 72.4 per cent. Their numbers in 1960 included about 10.8 [illegible] in the central cities or a gain of 63 per cent over 1950. The involuntary removal of large numbers of Negroes from their homes, businesses, churches and communities through the operation of the [illegible] and public program mak[illegible] numbers removal a civil rights problem of enor[illegible].

[illegible], urban renewal

private interests, bureaucracies, physical structures, programs and philosophies. The basic [illegible] launched it was the Housing Act of 1949 which declared it to be national policy that 'the general welfare and security of the Nation require [illegible]n of substandard and other [illegible] through the clearance of slums and blighted areas and the realization as soon as feasible of the goal of a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.'

"An urban renewal project is defined under Section 110 of the Housing Act of 1949 as amended as 'undertaking and activities of a local public agency in an urban renewal area for the elimination and for the prevention of the development of slums and blight and may involve slum clearance and redevelopment in an urban renewal area or rehabilitation or conservation or any c[illegible] or part thereof.'

is a lengthy and complicated affair. A project takes about five years to reach the demolition stage and several more before completion. In contrast, school boycotts, sit-ins, picket lines and rent strikes are relatively brief, dramatic and colorful actions that attract people and receive good press and TV coverage. Talking urban renewal in the face of such competition is like shouting into the wind.

"The administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency which directs all federally assisted housing, mortgage, financing and urban renewal activities is Dr. Robert C. Weaver, a nationally known critic of discrimination in housing long before he took office under President Kennedy. Dr. Weaver stumps the country trying to convince businessmen and officials that they have a responsibility toward the low income families uprooted by renewal. Dr. Weaver's presence may tend to restrain some civil rights groups from subjecting urban renewal to close scrutiny, but there are weightier reasons to account fo this.

"Urban Renewal is a primary source of government and construction jobs in an economy where many jobs are vanishing. Its growth in the past 15 years has probably been more explosive than that of any other domestic program.

"It would be interesting to study whether the renewed areas support more or fewer people through housing, business and jobs than they did before renewal and how many belong to minority groups. In other words, whether the job generating capacity of the renewal depends upon the oncoming momentum of the program or upon its results.

"Few of the Negroes employed in the renewal process make basic decisions on the use or reuse of land and space. These decisions stay in the hands of the omnipotent executive director of the local housing and redevelopment agency, the agency's commissioners, the mayor and councilmen of the municipality. All with rare exceptions are non-Negroes. The commercial and financial interests who

work closely with these officials are also represented by non-Negroes. The tendencies of these decision makers is to accept the advice of their expert staff headed by the executive director--"

--excuse me--

"The tendency of these decision makers is to accept the advice of their expert staff headed by the executive director." I don't have the name here.

"Harold Kaplan says that in Newark since 1948 there is no case on record of a staff proposal being rejected or modified by the commissioners and there are very few cases of split votes. The same holds true for the municipal council. C. Wright Mills has commented that 'The main forces that consciously shape the structure of the city today are private commercial interests, along with the presumably public interests that are more or less beholden to them.' If Mills is correct, then the struggle for Negro political representation has properly taken precedence over any campaign on urban renewal. But the

two will have to be linked sooner or later. The urban renewal decisions are both economic and political. The future character of the big cities is being shaped before our eyes. Whole electoral constituencies are being swept away by the bulldozers. The growing Negro concentration may never reach its maximum political potential if it is relentlessly harassed, disorganized and displaced by clearance. If the ghetto were truly eliminated by urban renewal, then the urgency for realizing this potential would be reduced; but it is not, it is merely displaced to form again.

"Also mitigating against renewal's having become a civil rights issue is the aura of legality and ineventuality that surrounds the program. The old saw that 'You can't fight City Hall' is now reinforced by the Federal Government and private enterprise. The civil rights movement thrives on victories. Few are quickly or easily won in urban renewal. To stick with a project from start to finish takes expertise

sitzfleisch and cash, all scarce commodities. Even before news of an impending project breaks in the press much veiled maneuvering has already occurred among the business, political and bureaucratic elites, with the last often holding the upper hand. The public announcement thus gives the impression of a fait accompli, leaving neighborhood and civil rights groups off balance, defensive, discouraged.

"Urban renewal may involve no greater active mass participation than any other federal government but no other program reaches so forcefully and intimately into the civilian existence, and no other is officially required to develop conscious citizen participation. However, only among the competing power interests is there any sort of open-ended debate. At the top levels the public receives merely token or indirect representation. Some critics advocate public referendums on renewal projects. To require a referendum, as Mississippi and Alabama presently do, could place the whole program in jeopardy, whereas

even these cities feel that something should be done, only differently.

"The process of acquiring land, applying for funds, and drawing up plans seems interminable to those caught in the renewal net. State laws require that municipalities declare areas to be slum or blighted before they can seek federal aid. Public hearings are required at various intervals. At the initial hearing the local public agency must show that the area in question is in fact blighted as defined by law. Opponents may rebut. Invariably the area is found to be blighted for the statutes are quite loose in their definitions and the power structure usually mobilizes with its civil allies to demand a yes vote. When this hurdle has been passed, there is a public hearing on the plan for re-use and development of the blighted area. Few citizens or groups at these hearings know their rights and resources.

"In Newark, the Chairman of the Planning Board has imposed a 40 minute gag rule on speakers, that is speakers from

the citizenry liable to oppose a blight declaration, not the officials who were requesting one. Not until 1961 was the chairman challenged by an alert attorney in behalf of a neighborhood group and forced to permit unlimited testimony as required by law. And not until the following year was the Newark Housing Authority ordered by a court of law to open to public scrutiny the individual housing surveys compiled in proposed blight areas, materials which it hadhitherto kept confidential and refused to open to citizens. But each of these victories was won only through local awareness buttressed by expert help.

"To raise funds and hire experts to analyze official programs are tedious tasks that understandably turn some activists to greener pastures. But without expert analysis of the official plans, not only from the bird's-eye view of the power structure but also from the worm's eye view of the local community, the opposition generally voices one big protest

and then fizzles out.

"The Juicy Federal Funds available to cities that want urban renewal are too tempting for local officials to resist. Federal aid mainly involves sharing net project costs with municipalities on a 2-1 basis, 3-1 in cities up to 50,000 people. More than one local politician glances nervously at the strong link Washington is forging with his home town. Since 1950, a vast bureaucracy, public and private, has gathered to feed at the renewed trough. Several mayors with labor support were elected during the last decade on platforms supporting renewal. In New Jersey dozens of municipalities have abandoned the commission and older forms of government in favor of the non-partisan strong mayor-council type that can push through the ordinances needed to enable the city to qualify for federal funds.

"The new municipal administrations with their emphasis on urban renewal politics have not provided the Negro with

a full measure of representation. In a direct participatory sense, this is well illustrated by this Board. Although Negroes today comprise over 50 per cent of the population of the city, there is only one Negro on this Board.

"Addonizio, who gained office on pledges to consider the human side of urban renewal has lost his resolve once in power. He cannot ignore the federal funds needed to bolster a sagging local economy and, incidentally, to fatten patronage roles. These infusions somewhat balance embarrassing loses in tax revenue suffered by many cities when cleared project land lies idle for years because developers back out or haggle for better terms on land costs and future taxes.

"Urban renewal has expanded the patronage available to City Hall just when Negroes are demanding more government jobs. In the scramble for a share of the prizes, the mayor, or sometimes the executive director of the local redevelopment agency, mediates among the various elements vying

for jobs and contracts, one firm versus another, the downtown versus the neighborhoods, big business versus small business. The city administration, surrounded by satrapies and dependencies, becomes a factor of great importance in the lives and fortunes of many people and in the economy of the region. The mayor is forced to compete for available funds against other cities attracted to renewal. Among the local participants in this system there develop implicit understandings and methods of accommodation, one of them being never to air disagreements in public where the city's image might be damaged. It is short shrift for dissenters under such a setup. Open critics who will not play the game are assaulted by the power structure. Community groups which struggle in such a whirlpool often mistake minor successes for major victories. A minor success may be the substitution of low rent for high rent housing on part of a site, the incorporation of new safety features into public housing, the redesigning of a shopping plaza to allow

some of the demolished small businesses to relocate, rents permitting. None of these modifications, won after bitter and exhausting struggle, alters the basic character of the city's master plan for redevelopment, of which most citizens are unaware.

"Once the public hearings are over, the private developers brought in the plans firmed up and the contracts signed, there is little that the community can do to stop the bulldozers. The preliminaries have taken several years, demolition takes a few days. True, a Negro ghetto may now be leveled, often an area of mixed usages and old buildings. But also gone are many rehabilitable structures, community centers, street corner haunts, church and various informal mechanisms of social control and, above all, the political organizations with their network of fraternal and defensive relations--things alien to the administrative mind.

"Only in the last few years have agencies acknowledged the massive clearance

has not eliminated slums and ghettoes but merely transferred them to adjacent fringe neighborhoods.

"Under such conditions of diminishing supply, the dislocated tenant is actually robbed of income, for he tends to pay a higher rent in his new quarters than before. Although some claim that many of these dislocated families may be enjoying better housing after moving, there is enough evidence to contest this generalization. In the new location the family is often further from work, child care facilities and place of worship. In the new location the dislocated families are further from work and their child care facilities and place of worship are still in their foreign neighborhood. Urban renewal provides no compensation for tenants beyond minimum moving expenses. The dislocated slum dweller, as Staughton Lynd says, "Is the new forgotten man of urban America."

"In the case of the small tenant-businessman whose trade depends upon

neighborhood good will, the loss due to dislocation is irrevocable. The Negro-run corner grocery or cleaning store is swept away with its white-run counterparts, only a few to survive in other areas. Among Negroes, urban renewal has one endorsement from only a small segment, primarily those owning slum projects or receiving job favors from the program. The ministers, both colored and white, with some notable exceptions have stayed away from the issue. Most Negroes have reacted to dislocation with apathetic resentment rather than active opposition, yet what big city opposition there has been has almost always been Negro based. Frequent moving has been a feature of Negro life in recent years, more than one-third of all nonwhite households having moved during the 2½ years which preceded the 1960 census. Hundreds of thousands of these families occupy low-rent public housing which is now used for relocation purposes or depend on other types of public subsidies for survival. Most dislocated families reject public housing and those

lowest on the social scale are usually ineligible. The effect of these subsidies is to make their recipients hesitant to join a struggle for civil rights they have rarely enjoyed. For many occupants, public housing has become the end of the road, a type of institutional support which they need rather than the temporary way station to a better life which it once was.

"What is the relationship of urban renewal to the community?

"Urban renewal is speculative and not scientific change. It relies on closed system planning and elitist decision making, ruling out alternatives based on open-ended studies and pluralistic values. It relies heavily on forecasts of the future of the uncertain real estate and construction industries. It introduces people to the concept of centralized planning in a remote, undemocratic manner; hence it alienates people from planning.

"Urban renewal generates Negro instability and mobility, thereby undermining the foundation of Negro economic and

political power. It liquidates most accumulations of Negro capital which it encounters but it permits a few to survive and may even create some. In some central cities, urban renewal is an answer by the power structure to the possibility of a Negro political victory.

"The city as a center of culture and source of wealth is still vital to the middle class. Urban renewal favors middle class hegemony in the city by trying to force the American lower classes to turn middle class or get out.

"Urban renewal attacks basic social problems but it does not solve them. The existence of slums, congestion and poverty is the sine qua non of its operations. It generates these qualities even as it destroys them. The directors of the program see themselves not as problem solvers but entrepreneurs. They pursue what Harold Kaplan calls 'activism per se.' On this principle there has developed an enormous bureaucracy organized into public redevelopment authorities and other autonomous agencies

not directly responsible to the electorate or even to elected representatives.

"Urban renewal negates the limited successes so far won by school integrationists by dislocating communities, upsetting racial equilibriums and forcing the postponement of badly needed school improvements in blighted areas.

"The relationship of urban renewal to community organization and politics can only be sketchily outlined here because the full implications of this question are still unfolding. Certainly without the active participation of the persons adversely affected by renewal and those conscious of its significance, there will be little hope of redirecting the program along lines beneficial to the great majority of city dwellers. And without major changes in the values guiding those controlling federal policy, a genuine alternative approach to urban problems is out of the question.

"The civil rights movement, in alliance with movement to organize the

indigenous community, could awaken the political potential among residents of slums, ghettoes and blighted areas through utilization of issues like poverty, dislocation, mass clearance, unemployment and land profiteering. It thus not only might redirect public policy to eliminate these evils but could bring into local politics the inclusive, democratic participation of the disenfranchised now largely absent.

"At this time the municipal level is better suited for such efforts than the state or federal. Municipal campaigns are less expensive, concentrations of Negroes and poor whites are still growing, the consciousness of thousands will stir as urban renewal activity swings upward. No easy victory can be expected but the possibilities are there.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Thank you very much, Miss Holmes.

Is there anyone present who has not been given an opportunity to speak?

Please step forward.

MR. CLARKE: I didn't get a chance

to speak, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Would you give us your name?

MR. CLARKE: Yes, sir. I would like to ask your colleagues to sit up in their seat and pay attention.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Just a minute while we get the mike fixed.

Will you state your name and address?

MR. CLARKE: I just gave it to him.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: For the record, would you please speak into the microphone?

MR. CLARKE: I am speaking into the mike. If you will hush, I will give it to you. I can't answer your question if you keep yak yakking.

My name is William J. Clarke.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Mr. Clarke, you have 30 minutes for your presentation.

MR. CLARKE: Who is the official timekeeper here?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: We have a clock there.

MR. CLARKE: I asked you a question.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: I am the official timekeeper, sir. It is now 7:45. You have 30 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for summing up. Please stop pressing the issue.

MR. CLARKE: I don't agree with you keeping the time.

As I said before, Mr. Chairman, I would like for you to ask your colleagues to sit up in their seats and act as if they are paying attention, if they are not, would you do that, please?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: I did not hear your remark, sir.

MR. CLARKE: It seems that you have difficulty. I can't talk loud, I am a sick man.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: I can hear your now.

MR. CLARKE: I am under the doctor's care. I wish I wasn't sick so I could actually address you.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: You are doing fine.

MR. CLARKE: I am asking you to ask your colleagues to sit up in their chairs and pretend they are paying attention if they are not. Would you ask them, please, sir?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: We are all paying attention, whether they lean forward or--

MR. CLARKE: That is all right.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: They are all paying attention. Please continue.

MR. CLARKE: I make them sit up. They will sit up in a minute.

Mr. Chairman, this Board, as a gentleman told me this afternoon, that this audience, brothers and sisters and others, I am glad that we are here together in City Hall. We should get together in our religious institution, in our poolrooms--I be there once in a while--barber shops and wherever we meet we should be together. And I would like to say to you a quotation I heard my minister say. He said, "We ain't what we going to be, we ain't what we ought to be, we ain't what we want to be

but thank God we ain't what we was."

I am asking you gentlemen sitting here before me this night, I am not going to comment on it but you had better get it, it is up to you to analyze this.

Mr. Chairman, I am a member of the Labor Van Guard, Labor Negro Van Guard Conference. I am a Leftist. Yes, I am Democratic, too.

I stand here tonight with the flame of indignation burning within me. This flame is burning throughout the Negro community all over this country.

A few years ago, 1961, I believe it was--in fact it was--we of the Labor Negro Van Guard Conference sent one of our students to Moscow to get her away from Jim Crow in the United Stated and especially in the Newark School System. And, incidentally, that student is studying medicine in Moscow. At that time we had asked officials of this state for better opportunities for black people and under-privileged people to get an education in the State and in this city school system.

We were criticized for our move, although it was a correct move that we would do a million times over again. Even the mayor of the city who was a congressman at that time, he criticized us. We had approached him for educational opportunities.

Tonight we oppose any medical school coming into our black community. We don't want it up there and I must tell you if you put a medical school up there it is not going to stay there. I want you to know that before you start building.

You see, we know your game, very well, we know it. In order to play a game you must have all the tools and know all the rules and we know your rules, understand them. A part of your game is to divide and destroy. We don't stop you from destroying us. We black people in America is going to stop you. We going to make you live at peace with us and all over the world. We are going to stop you from fighting war. If we don't go, you sure can't go. I bet you wouldn't leave me back here to run the city, you are scared

of me anyway, you wouldn't leave me back here to take over the administration and you go somewhere and tear up other people's home like you tear mine up. That is why we keep telling you we ain't going nowhere.

I want you to get it. We are going to stop you, we are going to make you live at peace, we are going to stop Jim Crow, we are going to live in harmony in a democracy, you are going to cut us in or you are going to cut it out.

I want you to take a look at me. You can look if you want to.

I told Chairman Kruschev, I said, "Look at me. I want you to look at me."

Abe Lincoln supposed to have freed the slaves and the crooked politicians have enslaved everybody. I counted up my resources before I came in here tonight. I think I had 40 cents. Mind you, living in the richest country in the world, 40 cents.

Abe Lincoln promised us 40 acres

of land and a mule and the damn mule is got out of style but I haven't got my land yet. You are flying out of space, going to the moon, and I haven't got the mule that I was promised but I do have the 40 cents.

We are not going to stand for you to continuously robbing us, stealing from us, you getting rich and holding us poor. Baby, you are going to cut us in or you are going to cut it out. We are going to come up with you or we are going to bring you down to where we are.

There used to be money--

A VOICE: They are laughing at you.

MR. CLARKE: Baby, I am not going to laugh at them, this is a serious matter. He is smiling because he has that despise that is burning in me is burning at him but he better not do that in the bathroom.

It used to be money appropriated for the needy. Today the money that is appropriated is for the greedy politicians. It is not anymore, man, and it is time to do something to construct for black people.

The only thing that the white capitalist Americans want to do is do things destructive for black people. That is your game, that is your motive. But you had better think and consider that there is a dark cloud arising and we ain't what we used to be.

There was a time when I have sit in this Hall here and fought against the power structure when it wasn't enough of my black brothers to fill up one of these benches. I am quite sure it is worrying you now that tonight, after tonight these black people are turning out, young and old, to stop you from trying to control them. You had us so confused and you misused and you ruled the ship at one time until you had the Baptists, the Methodists. That is what you did. But it is a little different today. You have Baptists, Methodists and what have you in religion, you have the Colonel here--God bless him--you have Junius Williams, a Democratic, I believe, a good one, a good man, Mr. Harris, Republican, a good man, Mr.

Richardson who stood here and tried to talk to your conscience for four hours the other night, a good man, other men like Mr. Wheeler, my Chairman, Mr. Kervin. Baby, we are going to stop you from bringing in a medical school and putting black people outdoors. And we are going to stop you. You can believe that. We are tired of you Jim Crow votes telling black people what to do.

Why Americans try to tell us what is what in everything? They try to tell us how to dress. Boy, I think I am dressed beautiful tonight. They try to tell us what music to listen to, they try to tell us what is beauty and what is ugly. I have been unable to enter a beauty contest because of my nose being flat and my face being black and I know I am good looking, yes, I am.

We are tired of you telling us what to do and, as I said before, we are going to stop you.

You try to tell us what is gambling and what is not gambling. Rockefeller

can sit in Wall Street, call a company over in California somewhere and bet a billion dollars worth of stock on something, call all over. That is not gambling, that is business. Like hell it is, it is gambling. But take a poor Negro to call little Joe and say, "Give me ten cents worth of stock on the Mutual Handle," bingo, "Go to jail, you are gambling."

We are tired of you telling us what to do. We know what is good for us. I don't approve of playing the Mutual Handle any more than any other citizen do but we don't want you to tell us what to do.

Yes, bingo, that is all right, there is no gambling in that, so they say. You go to the horse races, you sit there and bet millions of dollars--that is how that Mutual Handle come out, you know--but if a man from the Negro neighborhood or a woman is going to the track and Mary over there tells us, "I want you to put $2 on this horse and $2 on that horse for me" and she steps out in the street going to

the racetrack to carry this money there just as those millions of others are doing sitting up there betting, she goes to jail for bookmaking.

We are tired of you dictating to us what to do. We may be tired, we may be give out but I say to you tonight we will not give up. I want you to know that. I am tired of you, I am give out. But, at no moment as long as breath is in my body will I give up. The more outrageous you are, the more courageous we will be.

I will tell you what you could do with that money. The only thing you are concerned about is the dollar sign that is involved in this, that millions that is coming on top of the table and that little that flows under the table that you are going to get. Baby, you are making a mistake. We are going to get some of it or there ain't going to be none. Forget about it.

You could take that money, these millions that you get while we sit in

poverty, take that money, take it, send my black police officers to school and upgrade them where they can become to be lieutenants, sergeants, captain of a precinct. This is what I want, this is what I am asking you for. So when I walk in the precinct, I can talk to a captain that looks like me in my community like you do in your community. This is what we want. We want higher officers and positions for our brothers on the police department. And if you say they are not qualified, take that money and qualify them. That is what I am asking you for.

You can take the money and utilize it, you can utilize it in many good positions, in constructive positions and not to tear down our homes and put us outdoors.

Boys that are leaving the City of Newark, some of them going to Vietnam, mind you, to fight for a democracy that we haven't received here and when he comes back, his house is torn down and he is outdoors.

Now, he is fighting for your country, for your capital gains and you are going to tear his house down. That doesn't make good sense to me. You want to let him stay there and let him protect his home. You don't have to go to Vietnam to try to get some democracy, hand him the gun and tell him, "Black boy, stay here and protect that that belongs to you." That is what you do with the money, give him a gun, tell him to stand up for his rights and fight here and protect his house.

I told you I would sit them up in their seats after a while.

I got so much to say to you, I hardly know where to stop, where to start.

Gentlemen, I urge upon you to consider what you are doing. First of all, you have no concern for black people, that is number one. If you did, you wouldn't be sitting here with it in your mind already to tear down our houses and our neighborhood. And this is a policy of the United States Government, not only a policy of the City of

Newark Administration. This is a foreign policy of the United States. Look at what they are doing in Vietnam, the same thing, tearing down innocent people's houses. That is a United States policy. I am asking you to break that policy.

Give him some paper so he can write.

So, I am asking you don't tear down my black brothers and sisters' home unless you are going to put back homes and schools, don't attempt to go up there--and I am not talking about a medical school, I am talking about a school for the community, I thank you to understand that--don't you attempt to go up there, whether I am alive or not, and try to build a medical college. It wouldn't benefit us. Forget about that. Put this money to a better use where it would benefit black people.

You know, my grandmother told me something once and I remember it quite well. She said, "Son, anything you don't want to stop, don't start it." She said, "Anything that the white capitalist ruling class is unanimously for, you had better

be against it." So, I am against your school. And to make sure that we don't have to stop it, I am telling you to don't start it because you never be for anything that would benefit me. If it did, I would have my mule and 40 acres of land instead of standing here tonight. And if you give me my mule and 40 acres of land, you would be going to the moon much faster.

You laugh but you are not going to turn into nothing. You know, you don't get a kingdom, a kingdom is not handed out on a platform, you have to take kingdoms and we are telling you to turn loose or we are going to stop you. We are not going to walk around in rags while you continuously walk in riches, robbing us. You are not going to tell us our destiny. We are not going to stand for you to continuously trying to tell us what to do. It is not feasible nor achievable for the black people to trust their political destiny in the hands of white bigots, you just can't

have it.

As I said before, I reiterate, we are going to stop you. We are going to put a stop to your underhanded and unjust rulership.

You look up on Kinny Street, from West Kinny Street to Springfield Avenue. You are such an expert on urban renewal. Why didn't you go up there and tell the mayor, "So, you tore this down years ago and made it a mosquito breeding ground to bite the people that live over there. You ain't built a thing there." That is also a policy throughout the United States. In every major city I go in where my black people live, they tear down the houses, put up highways, leave vacant lots, make it a breeding ground for every kind of animal.

I am telling you change your mind, gentlemen.

Oh, yes, they will wake up, yes, they will. See, I am asking you to do

that. Go back and tell whoever sent you here, be honest with yourself, tell them that all of the response and all of the advanced thinking black people and leaders came down here and told you they oppose it.

Now, the majority should rule. Go back and tell him. Give it to him like a tease, t-i-s--oh, I didn't spell it correct. That doesn't make no difference. I learned that in your school. I learned every trick that you know.

We are organized and wise to you. You don't fool us anymore. That is probably one reason that the Chairman isn't here tonight. He is tired of you making a fool of the people. He is a little tired, he give out and give up. But we didn't. And he put you there to sit and hear this. So, he is tired of you. Every time somebody drops something on the floor, they use him as a rag to wipe it up. He is tired of that. You know what I am talking about. And we are tired of you

dictating to us.

You know what you tell my black sisters, "Oh, yes, you can come in my house, screw up the floor, show me your health card." You ought to be showing her one. You have been sick all your lives. You are the one that has got to get a health card. She is out cleaning your filth. That is what I am telling you about your unjustice. We done gotten wise to you. We wise and independent and ain't got a damn thing but we are going to get something, you can bet on that. Ain't we, though? We are going to get it or we are going to make you get in the shape we are. We are going to make you crawl before the world. We are going to beat you to your knees. You had better understand that, chief. You had better understand it because you can't do nothing without us. You hate us but we found out as bad as you hate us you cannot drop the Atomic Bomb on us. I dare you to drop it on us.

Boy, ain't we messing you? What

you thought was your country we tell you is ours. Now, go ahead and drop it.

You rattle your messes at other people but you had better not rattle it at us black folks here. We learn all that. That is why we tell you we are going to bring you to us or you are going.to let us come up and look where you are. And we don't have very much to lose. So, if you fall, it is going to hurt hell out of you because you are way up there and I am down here in the alley. So, I can't get hurt. I can't be hurt much, you know. So, consider what you have to lose. Don't look at what I have got to lose. I have got nothing to lose but my life and I done live to get baldheaded, some hair is getting gray, I am on my way to my old age pension. That is all I am going to see, that is all I am going to have if conditions remain the same. Therefore, it doesn't make any difference whether I die or live.

You know, death might be a way to take me out of the misery that you put me

in. That is why we are not afraid.

I am telling them just like it is, just like it is. We got some of your Jim Crow education in your schools and then we went somewhere and read between the lines and learned a little something beyond and above what you told us and that same stick that you be beating me on the head with, we are going to snatch it out of your hand, boy, and make you take it. We are going to take your same stick and use it on you if you don't put it down. If you go ahead and put it down and act right, then, you know, we will give you a break. But if we have to take it away from you, we are going to break it on you.

You afraid, we are not. We are not afraid. Never again shall you, you better not even think we afraid of you, you had better not even go home and dream that we are afraid of you. If you do, you had better be back here tomorrow morning with an apology.

A VOICE: You tell him.

MR. CLARKE: That is one of my little babies in the Van Guard. You know she is out here thinking black already. She was with me when I was running for governor against you folks. I know I didn't get your vote. That is all right. But I am going to make you vote right on the medical school or you are going to regret you didn't. There is no power, there is no folks, see, because I have already told you we dare you to drop the Atomic Bomb and that is the only thing you have got to boast about. Nothing else that you have got that will stop us and we are just like the Atomic Bomb, and you know it, but you don't know what our next move is. We might explode any minute. That is how we feel.

For years and years, Mr. Chairman, and hundreds of years--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Excuse me, sir.

MR. CLARKE: You started that noise again.

Gentlemen, why can't you get that buzz out of there? I can't hear you and

that buzzing.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Sir, your 30 minutes for presentation are up and you have an additional 10 minutes to sum up.

Please continue, sir.

MR. CLARKE: Did you count the minutes you have been cutting me off and going on? What time is it now?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: 8:15, sir.

MR. CLARKE: I have got 15 more minutes. I have 15 more minutes.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: 10 minutes, sir. Please--

MR. CLARKE: Every time, even the mike doesn't want you to be involved tonight.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Please continue.

MR. CLARKE: I am going to put you right down so the people can hear you. They can't hear you up there juicying out of your mouth. I thought you were intelligent when I first got up here, now I find out you keep acting like you are crazy or something. What is wrong

with you? I am still going to continue to tell you to don't go there, take that medical school, throw it in the lake for all I care. It is a state college. You have got plenty of space all over the state to take your college. Get it out of Newark and forget you ever entertained the idea of bringing it here. That is what my contribution is here, is continue to tell you that we are not going to be misued and abused and dictated to by white folks no longer, not you capitalist white folks nohow. The only thing that you are concerned about is stealing some millions of dollars because when you rob my people and put them out-doors to get that money, baby, you have stole it.

You are going to quit looting us, robbing us, you are going to treat us like human beings, you are going to listen to what we have to say and you are going to obey and we are going to be a part of this government. We are going to get our

percentage of it, we are going to get our 10 percent of the banks, the Supreme Court, we are going to get our 10 percent of the presidents, we are going to have our 10 percent of lieutenants, police captains, sheriffs and everything else. We are just telling you to be democratic about it and consider that. But if you are ignorant enough to overlook what we are telling you gentlemen, if your animosity, your race hatred, your white pride and all other things that go with Jim Crow, you have got to get rid of that and listen to what the people, the black people have told you that come before this microphone, otherwise you heard the little girl back there, humpty dumpty sit on the wall and had a great fall and all those king's horses and king's men could not put that thing back together, baby. I am not going to explain it, you understand it. This boat is going to be rocked. Now it is going to be capsized.

You want to put 180,000,000 white

people on the other side and fasten me and my little 20 black million on the other in the other corner, hell, no, that ain't going to work. We ain't going to have it. We are going to shere it together or there will be nothing. That is right.

I have to pause.

So, you know, you can kind of get it in your mind a little bit. I have been looking at the Chairman but I have to pause and take a look at you because you have a hostile attitude. But I am trying to tell you to change it. You don't live in the Negro community and the only time you went up there was to condemn it. And let me say this: I don't want you to build nothing for me. That is why the hell the building is falling there now and you are talking about how to build. Don't you build us nothing. We want black men to build for us if there be any building, baby, because your buildings deteriorate. That is why we

got all this trouble. You went up there and slapped on mud together and a little plaster and hollered, "You all got a house to live in." And somebody like Booker was fool enough to believe you. I wasn't.

Highways are falling apart. You built them. Then you come along and condemn them.

Let the Negro live in the ghetto. You built that ghetto. You build nothing for us. Hand that money over--I told you when I ran for governor--hand that money over to we black people, give it to the colored back there, he has got a good builder, George Richardson has a good building, Mr. Junius Williams was in the building business one time I think. Competition got bad. You know who did it, don't you? You understand.

We don't want you to build, don't even want you to put one grain of sand together for us. And when you talk about moving these people into housing projects, I can show you people that had applications

to get in the housing project while other people were living in another country and they done come here and got in the project ahead of our black brothers and sisters. Now who are you fooling? And I dare you to call me a liar. I dare you to speak my word. If you do, I am going to call you something and I better not do that, there better not be nothing back, better not be nothing back.

I can talk like I want to because everything I say is the truth. You connive and lie and I don't. You have been doing that for hundreds of years. So, don't you come up there with nothing for us. You go down to Washington and get a few millions, just come up here and hand it to these leaders who have been up before you talking. Boy, we know what to do with it. We can build you a site that you would try to copy after us but we wouldn't let you.

If we open up a little restaurant here, you come condemning that. We buy a little piece of property that never

had a fire escape on it, you built it, so the little black man got it and you say, "Put a fire escape up there."

We don't want you to build nothing for us but just leave us alone. We are going to go make you do that.

You are not qualified, you are not qualified. Keep looking at me.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: The time is up, Mr. Clarke. Please allow another speaker to come forward.

MR. CLARKE: Yes, we have got some more coming just like me.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Thank you very much.

MR. CLARKE: You are welcome.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: The next speaker is Mr. Horace Wiggins.

MR. ROBINSON: Mr. Chairman--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Is Mr. Wiggins here?

Excuse me.

Is Mr. Wiggins here?

MR. RICHARDSON: He will be here in

a few moments.

MR. ROBINSON: Mr. Chairman, I have one word to say, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Go ahead.

MR. ROBINSON: My card is up there and I understood that I am supposed to be the next speaker.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: You may.

What is your name, please?

MR. ROBINSON: My name is Henry Robinson. I reside at 245 Norfolk Street in the area sited to be for the medical school of dentistry and I ask also, Mr. Chairman, I am also the 16th District Leader, Democratic.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Mr. Robinson, pardon me, please, you have 30 minutes for your presentation and 10 minutes for summation.

Please continue.

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: You are welcome, sir.

MR. ROBINSON: As I was saying,

for the record, my name is Henry Robinson. I live at 45 Norfolk Street and I am the 16th District Leader of the Central Ward in the City of Newark.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Will you spell your name, please?

MR. ROBINSON: R-o-b-i-n-s-o-n.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Thank you, sir.

MR. ROBINSON: You are welcome, I am quite sure.

Mr. Chairman, about two years ago I came down before the Municipal Council here in the City of Newark. I took pictures of the area which is on Rutgers Street in the City of Newark, I brought down pictures, presented them before the Council and Mr. Villani, the Chairman of the Council, and all of the other Councilmen were here at the time and they told me at that particular time when I came here that they were going to try to find the absent landlord of this property that was condemned on Rutgers Street. Now, I know for myself that they have on the

books down here in the Council that they are supposed to make these landlords fix up this property but they tell me they can't find him. But I know better. But when they do find him, I don't know, somebody tells me that when they find them, they get them into the mayor's office, they have a little conference, "How much can you slide on the table, Mr. Landlord? We will cool it." You know what I mean. So, Mr. Chairman, I think this is a disgrace for the citizens of the Central Ward, not only the citizens of the Central Ward but all the black citizens of the City of Newark to--I mean, you say you are going to blight the area but let me say this to you gentlemen--and I am not here to hostile anyone, I am here to speak from the heart and to tell the truth and I am going to call some names tonight and I don't care who it hits and who doesn't like it because I think I am big enough to take care of myself. I think that council and the mayor should have gotten

together with the citizens of the area and called them in and let them decide before they went to work. I don't know whether they might have worked all hours of the night, I don't know, deciding to scheme. It is nothing but a scheme, you gentlemen know this. They should have called all of the citizens from the area where they are supposedly going to build the medical college which I am hoping that we have some homes there, I am hoping this, and I am hoping you gentlemen will see to it that we do have homes there, they should have called the citizens in and let them decide what would be the best for the area, not the mayor get together.

When I am talking, Mr. Chairman--excuse me, please, gentlemen--I want you to give me respect and I am going to give you respect.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: I apologize for the interruption.

MR. ROBINSON: And if you have anything to say with any of your colleagues,

please, Mr. Chairman, excuse yourself then I will stop, give you the opportunity to talk with any of them you want. But while I am talking, I wish you would give me some courtesy, please.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: I am really sorry, Mr.Robinson.

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

As I have also said, I think that it should have been done in a democratic way to call the citizens together, have a citizen meeting and let them decide what they want up there in the area, not the mayor going to say, "Well, I got 150 acres, I got 50 acres" or whatever it may be "that you can build your college here." And they wanted to build it in Madison and you gentlemen know but the mayor, for some reason or another, said, "Well, I have got it." I mean, he didn't have a damn thing up there. I mean, you know, he didn't have anything up there. I don't believe he even owned anything up there. He owns something up

where is it, Vailsburg, I believe it is. But anyway, Mr. Chairman, so much for that.

[illegible] say this: The City of Newark --let [illegible] this for one point here: I have been in this city, I lived in this city for 35 years, for 30 years I have been living in the Central Ward. I have been in the Central Ward for 30 years. Can you beat that? I am not going to leave the Central Ward. I am going to be there. If you bring the bulldozers there, I am going to be the first one to lay in front of the bulldozer.

Let me explain that. When I first came into the Central Ward, it was a beautiful place. I mean, it was nice, the homes was up and I had a lot of people like you, my white friends--I had some white friends, I hope I still have some--but they all, I don't know, they all moved out and then we all moved in. But when they moved out, they left the home there and we were so poor, we had to rent, understand what I mean, but, then, if the least little something, if a leak.

started in the room, you called him to fix it, he don't want to send nobody down to fix it. This is what makes slums.

If the landlord doesn't take care of his property, it is going to go down. Am I right or wrong? You know it is the truth. And if the landlord instead of taking care of this property on Rutgers Street like they were supposed to and the other areas in the Central Ward, those houses wouldn't have been condemned or torn down like they are. I mean, the landlord can't be found. I mean, I had a piece of property, I didn't have it but in my district a piece of property on Norfolk Street. Well, they kept looking in the books and I kept coming down here raising hell until they eventually found the landowner and they made him tear it down because it was a fire hazard. So, just like they found that landlord, they could have found the other.

Now, let me say this: We, as black folks in the City of Newark, we

elected two councilmen. Now, Councilman Turner is supposed, for the record, supposed to represent the Central Ward, supposed, for the record. Now, I have been a strong supporter of Councilman Turner through the years but I don't know what happened to my councilman on this issue. I think he should be the one down here fighting the battle for us up there.

Now, we have one fighter from up there by the name of Julius Honeyward, our Chairman. He is right with us on this issue.

Now, we all through the years elected another councilman by the name of Councilman West, Councilman Lodge, another black man. Now, I think he should be here fighting the issues. He is not here. I don't know what happened unless it is some kind of deal that was made.

I mean, let's face it. I would like to meet both of them. And I will pull no punches. Both of them sold the black man down the river. Now, I mean,

I am through with those two.

Let me check with my mayor of the city. For 14 years, Mr. Hugh Addonizio represented the Negroes, the bulk of the Negroes, as a matter of fact, practically all Negroes he was representing from the 14th Congressional District down in Congress. We worked like hell for Mr. Addonizio at that particular time. We worked like hell for Mr. Addonizio this last time to get him elected and I can remember Mr. Addonizio at 188 Belmont Avenue campaigning and he come right before me--and I will tell him this to his face--he was campaigning to get elected then. I guess he would say anything to get elected. He made this statement, he said, "I know, I know that the black man in 1970 will be out to elect a black man and I myself will endorse the one you put up in 1970." He said it at 188 Belmont Avenue. So, I don't know what happened to him. Maybe he is saying --well, I don't know, maybe somebody

pulled his pulse and said, "Look here, what are you talking about? We don't want this black man taking the city over."

It is a funny thing. I mean, politics is a pretty game, isn't it? That is what they say. I am a politician myself and I am proud to be a politician but let me say this, if Mr. Addonizio thinks that he is going to get away with what he is doing up there in the Central Ward, he has got another thought coming because I am going to tell you gentlemen tonight we are going to fight and we are going to fight like hell to try to stop this medical college from coming into the Central Ward.

We need homes up there, gentlemen. Don't you all realize that? We need homes up there. What are we going to do for the mothers and the little kids, just little tots, coming up? I mean, they can't go into your neighborhood and you know that is the truth. Can they go into your neighborhood and rent an apartment? They can't do that. You know this. Can

they go up to--I understand that Mr. Addonizio lives in Spring Lake now but the last time I know he lived up the hill up on South Orange Avenue but I understand he lives in Spring Lake now but can they go up the hill where he is supposed to live at and rent up there? They can't do it. If you go up there an try it, you know what they will do, they will put what they call--what is it, a cross, a Klu Klux Klan? That is probably what they will do.

I mean, I am really sick of this thing myself. It is disgusting to uproot 22,000 Negroes. It is nothing but a prejudiced, biased, one of the lowest conspicuous things I have seen in my life, in my 45 years. I am forty-five years old. Do I look it? Well, my forty-five years, this is one of the lowest, one of the sneakiest, dirtiest tricks that are being played on people, human people that I ever witnessed in my life. To uproot people and Mr. Dennig to have the audacity

to sit over there on his so and so and say that he has got places to put these people, he is telling a damn lie because, Mr. Chairman, I have made a survey for myself with my people up there in the 16th District of the Central Ward which I represent, 600 some odd people up there and we made a particular survey to find out for ourselves if there is anywhere for these people to go. And there is no place for them to go. I mean, he says he has got--I don't know where he is talking about but I wish he would tell me, he still hasn't said--the only thing he has said is "We have got places, we can accommodate these people, we have got," all this kind of baloney. Who is he kidding? He is not kidding us because we know better. We have all of the statistics. I mean, we are experts on our own community. They may be housing experts but we have got pretty good experts in the back there too, you know.

So, I am telling you all night, gentlemen, I am begging you as one of the

citizens of this city and one of the leaders of this city don't have that medical college come up there.

I am not opposed to medical college, I don't want you to misunderstand, I am not opposed to a medical college coming into the City of Newark which I think we need but we don't need no medical college up there, we need homes. They have all the land on Frelinghuysen Avenue, they have all kinds of land down where the old ball park was, you know, where the old ball games used to be, they have got all kinds of land they can build a college on. If people can come from other areas, white folks, because Negroes ain't going to benefit by this college, if they can come from other areas and come to this college, they can go down there to that college too, down the Neck, the old East Ward. They can go down there and they don't have to uproot anyone there because the land is there. Now, this is the truth and the land off of Frelinghuysen Avenue,

too, they can build. Why uproot 22,000 citizens of the City of Newark to build a medical college?

I say this: Tear the houses down but build them homes. That is what we need.

Don't you think I am right, gentlemen?

Mr. Chairman, don't you think I am right?

Now, I don't know what kind of scheme was built up because I knew it had to be a scheme or something because anyone with any kind of common knowledge, any intelligence whatsoever, will know that when Mr. Addonizio jumped up and said that "I can give you so many acres for your college--" I can tell you something else. I am with the organization they call Negro Removal. You know Miss Louise Epson who is sitting here. I am with her too with this Negro Removal. That is all it is, Negro Removal, Black Folk Removal, that is all it is. When you start uprooting black folks like that,

it is just Jim Crow, just like Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Virginia. I can go on and call all of those southern states down there. They say that Alabama is not part of the United States. I don't know, I don't know.

They just killed one of my boys, I understand, in Tampa, Florida. The cop shot him in the back while he was running. And I have some police experience too. You can shoot him in the leg, you don't have to shoot him in the back to stop him. And I don't think that, because I know Director Spina, I know him pretty good, and I know he doesn't go for no kind of stuff like that, at least I hope he doesn't.

So, let me say this to you gentlemen tonight: I live at 245 Norfolk Street, I am in the medical site, and I don't want to see a medical college come into that area. Let's build some homes, let's build some homes there. Let's build some homes. That is what we need, homes, not no medical college.

I will be fighting this thing. I guess maybe this is where I am going to die, right up there, because I am sure we are going to be fighting this out to stop it.

As I said before, I am going to be the first one who lays in front of the bulldozer that comes up there, I am going to be the first one. I have already taken that stand. Put that on the record.

My name is Robinson. I made that statement and I stand that I will be the first one laying in front of the bulldozer.

You know, I used to be a boxer at one time and, you know, I used to get paid for doing it, you know that, but I don't want to get, you know, we ain't going to get paid for trying to stop this.

I don't like violence. Let me say this to you, I don't like violence, I am against violence but if you all don't come to some kind of an agreement and try to listen to us people, we

are human, listen to our reason and build homes instead of this medical college, gentlemen, there is going to be one holy hellish day in hell, I am telling you. I am telling you now, as I said before, I am not for violence, I am against it, totally against it but this is a good way to start violence. Don't you understand what I am saying?

See, now, when you move a man out of his home and tell him you are not going to put him nowhere, where is he going? That is enough.

You know, I remember an old man once stood up on his porch with a shotgun. They were trying to take his land away from him and I was nothing but a little kid and I can remember the day that old man stood up on his porch and he stood out there with his shotgun and said, "You know what I will do? The first one makes another step, I will shoot the hell out of him if you try to take my land away from me." Do you know that old guy did it? He shot the hell out of the first man that

took a step. But I don't want to see that, gentlemen. I don't want to see that.

Let's be gentlemen, let's be reasonable, let's do it the democratic way and I think we will all be placed.

I am finished, Mr. Chairman. I am not a long-winded speaker, I always try to get to the point and I always try to make myself very clear and very accurate. I take my time as you notice, I try to make myself specific, try to let you know what the neighborhood is. I am trying to let you know how to avoid violence in the City of Newark. But if it will be violence, you will have to blame the violence on Hugh Addonizio.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Mr. Robinson, will you come back, please?

MR. ROBINSON: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Thank you very much for your presentation.

May I ask a question?

MR. ROBINSON: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: If it were feasible to erect low rise apartments within the area, would you still object to the college, medical college being in that location?

MR. ROBINSON: As I first so stated, Mr. Chairman, I am for housing in that area. We don't need 150 acres for no medical college. You know this.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: We are only talking about 50 acres, Mr. Robinson.

MR. ROBINSON: Wait a minute now. With the stipulation that we get this other hundred acres, remember now. Am I right or wrong?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: I presume that eventually but just now--

MR. ROBINSON: Eventually. See?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Just a moment, please.

For the area we are only discussing 50 acres.

MR. ROBINSON: You see, Mr.

Chairman, we are not fools, you know, and people try to hoodwink us, you try to take us in the dark. See, we are not crazy enough to know that the medical school already told the mayor that we have to give them an okay for another 100 acres and we are not stupid enough to know that the mayor is not going to go along with that deal in order to get himself saved.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: May I advise you and everybody else here this evening that we are only talking about the area from Bergen Street to Norfolk Street, South Orange Avenue to 12th Avenue.

A VOICE: We don't want it.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Just a moment, please.

If as Mr. Robinson remarked the City may need an additional 100 acres, you must realize the housing authority cannot buy it without coming to the City for another public hearing.

MR. ROBINSON: I understand that. I know you have got to have another public hearing. But, Mr. Chairman, why should--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: This is only a question.

MR. ROBINSON: I understand. Why should we attempt to even start a medical college in the Central Ward when we know we need homes? Am I right or wrong? We need homes up there.

I mean, as I told you, the man knows he has got a lot of land on Frelinghuysen Avenue, the man knows he has got a lot of land down in the old East Ward, down by the stadium, he can build a college up there. Why does he have to come up in the Negro community and pull that down for a medical college?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: I have your answer. Thank you very much.

The next speaker is Mrs. Todd. Is Mrs. Todd present?

MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Just a moment, sir.

MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Just a moment, please.

Is Mrs. Todd--

MR. THOMAS: I would like to speak, Mr. Chairman, because I was taking Mr. Wiggins' place.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Just a moment, please.

MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman, you called Mr. Wiggins before and Mr. Robinson spoke.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: The Chairman called Mrs. Todd. Are you Mrs. Todd?

MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Would you get off the mike?

Mrs. Todd was called first.

MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: I will give you a half a minute.

MR. THOMAS: Could I have a point of order?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: What is your name?

MR. THOMAS: My name is Thomas, William S. Thomas.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Thomas?

MR. THOMAS: That is correct.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Will you sit down? After Mrs. Todd states her case, you will be called.

MR. THOMAS: No. I would like to cooperate with you--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Will you please sit down and relinquish the mike to Mrs. Todd?

MR. THOMAS: Is it possible I could say something, Mr. Chairman? Is it possible that I could say something, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Half a minute.

MR. THOMAS: Could I say something?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Half a minute.

MR. THOMAS: I don't know if I can say it in a half a minute.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: That is all you can have. You will have to sit down until after Mrs. Todd.

MR. THOMAS: I don't know how you can leave your name in a half a minute. I want to ask you a question.

I placed my name to be a speaker here last evening and from last evening until now my name has not been called yet. So, Mr. Wiggins, who was a previous speaker who you called on before, told me he would yield his time for me to speak.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Nobody yields any time to anybody.

Sir, will you sit down and Mrs. Todd will be the next speaker. Please sit down.

MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman, last night when I was here--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: I beg of you to sit down.

MR. THOMAS: Last night when I was here, Mr. Chairman, I noticed a lot of people had a limited time. We have to set certain ground rules.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Today no one yields time.

MR. WALKER: You are right, it is another day, that is why you are not going to file a book in five minutes.

MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman--

MR. WALKER: You are not dictating to nobody no more. Either you go by your own rules so you will get the respect that you deserve or you will be replaced.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: The Chair will call upon you.

MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman, can you set some ground rules?

MR. Chairman, the people in this audience--excuse me a moment, Mrs. Todd--

MRS. TODD: Mr. Chairman, I came in this afternoon, my first trip here. I think that I would rather you hear him, the fellow who came yesterday and today again and waited and has not been heard. May I have another point on the register there and let him speak now? I would appreciate that.

MR. THOMAS: My name is William S. Thomas--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Just a moment, please, I am not finished.

MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Just a moment. You are speaking for yourself. Give us your name and address, please.

MR. BRADLEY: If I may, Mr. Chairman, so that everybody understands what we have done, we have stated that we did not yield any time. No one has lost their time at the microphone, the only thing is that Mr. Thomas is speaking first and Mrs. Todd will speak later. There is no yielding involved.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Thank you, Mr. Bradley.

MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Planning Board, my name is William S. Thomas of 570 Clinton Avenue in Newark. Before I get to my presentation, Mr. Chairman, I would like to address you.

We, the black community of Newark and the surrounding areas, are sick and tired of you changing the rules in the

middle of the game. When a man goes out for the football team, the first thing they teach him is the rules. Now, if yousre going to set some rules, you have got to stick by them or else I am not going to stick by them. You can call 20 police officers. All they can do is take me out of here. You can't stop me from speaking.

I am representing the Calvin Kelly Civic Association and we have 323 active representatives who represent 323 active families, 323 concerned families in the City of Newark. Our purpose is self helf through voting. Our primary goal is that spot right over there, that spot right over there underneath Hugh Addonizio's picture, that is our primary goal.

As I looked around this wall, I see men of Irish abstraction, men of Jewish abstraction, men of Polish abstraction, men of Greek abstraction. These men ruled when they had the majority. Now we have the majority. In 1970 we

are going to have a black man over there or a black woman over there. And when we get the black man over there, we are going to have black people sitting up there.

Now, we had a black Chairman, we had a black Chairman. You sent the black man up to be used here as a tool in front of black people. Well, this black man, either he had so much pride or he couldn't stand the pressure, he let you take over the Chair, let you carry the football.

Now, in the City of Newark where the majority of the population is non-white, it appears to me and to other people throughout the country that we should have some stronger voice in the destiny of our children. When the plans are made for the medical college, the majority of the people that made these plans were not black. The majority of the people that made these plans did not live in the target area. The majority of the people who are going to be affected

by these plans do not live in the majority area. They were not consulted. They were not asked how they wanted this area renewed. This was done as a political scheme. This political scheme was to disenfranchise 22,000 black people. People have to call it Negro removal. It may be Negro removal and maybe again it may be crowding Negroes in one designated area so you can keep them under further surveillance, so you can expose them to further disease, so that you can have them in over-crowded schools so that they can get more inferior education than the one they are achieving, the ones that they are obtaining in the school system today. This condition that makes this area, as you seem to call it, blighted is a condition that has been perpetuated by the city fathers over the course of the years. These houses would not have become dilapidated if the inspectors, the city housing inspectors had inspected the property and forced the absentee land-

lords to improve this property so that they wouldn't deteriorate.

Many times when you speak to people of the other race than myself, they always tell you that we black people move into an area, they tear the area down. Well, when black people move in an area, it is usually when the white people move out.

Now, I have had some experience in the real estate business, I know that when you go into a house that the white people have just moved out, they will take wallpaper and put it over cracked walls because they want to sell the house. They will take asbestos siding and put it on with termite rotted clapboards because they want to sell the property. So, now that the black man buys it, he has a first mortgage, a second mortgage and he has to worry about improving his property because now he is attacked by the health officer, the plumbing inspector, the electrical inspector, the building inspector. Every-

one is attacking this man and telling him that his property is in such a bad state of being.

Now, being black all my life and being born here in America and the only standard being set was the white standard, and that has always been the best standard, they said, "We have always wanted the best." So, therefore, here comes the home improvement man. The home improvement man will put a perma-stone in front of your house, a finished basement, aluminum siding and a new room and then they will send another man that will landscape your yard. How in the hell are we tearing the neighborhood down? You can ride through the Weequahic section, the Clinton Hill section, sections of the South Ward, East Ward, North Ward and any time you see a home that a Negro or black man owns, you will see that that home has increased in its value at least 200 percent.

If you allow the same condition which you have allowed in the past to prevail in Newark, the entire Newark will

be blighted, and this condition is having your building inspector fall down on the job, in fact, lay down on the job.

We know that they have real estate combines that own a majority of the apartment houses and multiple dwellings and tenant buildings here in Newark. Just like the gentleman stated before this evening, he wanted to know who owned a particular building and he couldn't find out because they said they didn't know who owned the property. It was registered in the name of a corporation and they couldn't find the owner. So, therefore, with the violations this man has, they perpetuate themselves day by day until the property deteriorates and then they blame it on black people. You blame it on black people because the stairs get old from deterioration and they fall and you say the kids kicked them in. We must be some strong people if we can break wood.

I would like to ask you a question. What plans does this Planning Board have for this area, this 150 acres which you seem to keep saying 50 but it was to my knowledge that the Medical Board would not come into Newark, not unless they got a commitment from you for another 100 acres. Is this true or not? Is this true or not, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Sir--

MR. THOMAS: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: --this hearing is only concerned with the areas covered by 50 acres surrounded by Norfolk Street, Bergen Street, South Orange Avenue and 12th Avenue.

MR. THOMAS: I will ask my question again, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: I am sorry, there is so much noise, I don't hear you.

MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman, will you answer my question if I ask it again?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Pardon?

MR. THOMAS: Would you answer my

question if I asked it again?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Yes. The public hearing is only--

MR. THOMAS: Did not the Medical School Board request 150 acres, 50 now and a hundred at a later date?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: From information obtained personally reading the newspapers --

MR. THOMAS: Not reading the newspapers, you are on the Planning Board, you are not supposed to read any newspapers.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Sir, I am giving you a sincere and an honest answer. My knowledge of the 150 acres is obtained from the daily papers. My knowledge regarding the public hearing concerned tonight is only 50 acres and bounded by Bergan Street, Norfolk Street, South Orange Avenue and 12th Avenue and one or two blocks of West Market Street. That is all this public hearing is for.

MR. THOMAS: Now, Mr. Chairman, then I have to assume that you were

not in on the plans when they were planning to put the medical school over here. You were not in on these plans when they were planning the medical school.

Were you or were you not in on the plans when they were planning the medical school in this area?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: There is so much noise in the background, I can't hear you out there.

MR. THOMAS: Were you or were you not--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: I can hear you if the background--

MR. THOMAS: Were you or were you not a part of the plans to put the medical school in this particular area?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: No, sir.

MR. THOMAS: Well then, do you think that you are qualified to sit on a hearing if you were not in on the plans? I think you should disqualify yourself from being the Chairman of this Board.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: May I ask a question, please? The only evidence we

obtained during this hearing is such information that has been given to us by the housing authority and by all of you good people and we must ascertain after the evidence is in--and it will take many weeks to study--and our obligation of the Planning Board is to evaluate whether the area in question is blighted or it is not blighted. The medical college does not enter into this area. Irrespective of what goes in there, we must decide whether it is blighted or not blighted. That is the question.

MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman, may I ask another question? In the event--you said the medical school plan does not enter into the scope of this particular Planning Board.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: That is correct, sir.

MR. THOMAS: Right. Now, in the event that the medical school does not come to this particular area, what alternate plans have you made for this area?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: There is no plan prepared for that area to my knowledge.

MR. THOMAS: Then am I made to understand that the Planning Board does not make any plans? Who makes the plans?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: We have a master plan and we are governed by the master plan.

MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman, in this master plan that you speak of, is this area on the map of the master plan?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Well, that area, like any other area in the City of Newark--

MR. THOMAS: Your mike is off, excuse me. I can't hear you.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: That area, like any other area in the City of Newark, is on the master plan, it must be.

MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Will you continue now, please?

MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman, is the medical college a part of this master plan?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: It is not.

MR. THOMAS: It is not? In other words, you are telling me that the master plan does not include the medical college. Is that correct?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: That is correct.

MR. THOMAS: That is what you said?

Did you say that? I didn't hear you.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: That is correct, it is not included in the master plan.

MR. THOMAS: It was not included in the master plan?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: The question you asked, you asked whether the medical plan was included in the master plan.

MR. THOMAS: Yes.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: It is not.

MR. THOMAS: Well, this area that you speak of, what do they have planned for this area in the master plan?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: The master plan,

sir, is a matter of public record.

MR. THOMAS: No, I am asking you. You are the Chairman of the Planning Board. I am a concerned citizen, I come here to get facts. I don't want to get it from the newspaper because that is secondhand information. I want to get it directly from you because you are the Chairman of the Central Planning Board.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Sir, you are here to make a statement and let this --just a moment, please--

MR. THOMAS: No, I don't know why you are here but I know why I am here.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Just a moment, please.

MR. THOMAS: If I was only here to give you my views, I could write it in a letter. I'm here to get facts. I don't want to get my facts from the newspaper, I want you to give me the facts directly from your mouth.

What plans do you have for the

particular area under this so-called master plan which you speak of?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: At the present time there is no definite plan. Now--

MR. THOMAS: What are the tentative plans?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Will you please continue your statement?

MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman, see, I don't know too much about politics and I don't know too much about city government so I would like you to tell me what exactly does the Central Planning Board do?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: The purpose of this public hearing--

MR. THOMAS: I would like to know, see, because I am not a knowledgeable individual.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: The purpose of this public hearing is to listen to the comments of the speakers for the record and then, after the speeches and the hearing has been concluded, your

remarks as well as other remarks will be studied and evaluated and will help us decide whether the area is blighted or not.

MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: That is the only answer I can give you. Please continue.

MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman, do you consider yourself a public servant in your particular realm of duty now?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: I didn't hear you.

MR. THOMAS: Do you consider yourself a public servant in your particular duty now?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: I am a public servant.

MR. THOMAS: As a public servant, and I, as a concerned citizen, I am requesting that you tell me the function of the Central Planning Board of the City of Newark.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: The function of the Planning Board can be ascertained

from state statutes and city ordinance.

MR. THOMAS: I do not know where that is.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: That is the answer I have to give you.

MR. THOMAS: Do you feel that is the proper answer to give a concerned citizen?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Yes, it is the proper answer.

MR. THOMAS: In other words, you are not sympathetic with my feelings.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: This Chair and the Board is sympathetic with the feelings --

MR. THOMAS: Maybe you are a little befooled or something of that nature, maybe one of these other gentlemen here can tell me the functions of the Planning Board.

Maybe this gentleman right here.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: The Chair asks Mr. Thomas not to be insulting.

Mr. Thomas--may I have quiet, please?

Mr. Thomas, I ask that you not be insulting to the Board, please.

MR. THOMAS: I beg your pardon.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Try not to be insulting to the Board.

MR. THOMAS: Oh, no, I have the deepest respect for these gentlemen. These are part of our city government. I respect these gentlemen. I haven't said anything against these gentlemen. I don't know these gentlemen, therefore, I wouldn't say anything--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: The only purpose we are here, sir, is for the blighted area.

MR. THOMAS: No, sir.

MR. Chairman, I would like to ask again the function of the Central Planning Board. I would like to know.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: It is a matter of public record. The state statutes can be examined and the city ordinance can be examined.

MR. THOMAS: Well, I understand that Mr. Bradley is here. I am wondering

if the Chair would extend to Mr. Bradley the privilege of answering my question.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: We are not here to answer any questions. All questions will be answered in the text after we have read the hearing, after we have held the hearings.

MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman, now you are insulting myself and the rest of these people out here. You are insulting the entire black population of the City of Newark. If you cannot tell me the function of the Planning Board, how can I deem you knowledgeable enough to decide whether or not the area is blighted?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: May I remind you at this time that the purpose of this hearing is for this Board, including the Chairman, to listen to all speakers without the speakers asking for answers to questions.

MR. THOMAS: Every day up on High Street around the corner of Green Street

there is courts of law. If a man is accused of a crime, he comes before a Judge. This Judge has to have the qualifications to render a fair and prudent decision. If you are not knowledgeable enough to know what you are up there for, how can you render a decision? I can't continue until a few facts are cleared up and I ask that you let Mr. Bradley, who is here, to tell myself and the rest of these concerned people out here what the function of the Planning Board is.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Please continue your statement, Mr. Thomas. Your time will soon be up.

Please continue.

MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman, I would like it entered into the record that the Planning Board is unaware of their function, cannot explain what place this 50 acres has in the master plans for Newark so, therefore, they are unqualified to render any decisions as an outcome of this hearing.

Three weeks ago I attended a dance at the Terrace Ballroom. There were 2,000 people there. They had eight special policemen. There were 2,000 people who were drinking alcohol, 2,000 people who had different motives. They had eight special policemen. Tonight, like last night, like last week, we have a captain, two or three, an inspector, some sergeants, numerous amount of police officers sitting around twiddling their thumbs, sitting around watching concerned citizens. Mind you, there are no dope peddlers here from South Orange, the numbers bank man isn't here from Short Hills, the gun runners aren't here from the North Ward. These are concerned citizens, people who pay taxes, people who have children going to school. I would like to know, Mr. Chairman, is it in your bylaws or in your rules and regulations that at a Planning Board meeting that the citizens be watched over by the City's fighters?

If I was a police officer, I would take offense to this. If I was a young man who wanted to be a policeman, I would want to be a policeman to deter crime because according to democratic society the police fall under the sphere which is the enforcement part of the government and they are to enforce the law.

Now, there are no laws being broken here. Here we have got a policeman six foot four watching me. I am harmless. And there is another little short man here. He is watching me, I am harmless. I bet you $100 right now that out there in the street somebody just got mugged. While they are watching us, the criminal is picking pockets, robbing houses and mugging people. I really don't think it is fair because, you know why, in a democratic society the reason why it is democratic is because it is the voice of the people by the people and for the people.

Sir, I am an American citizen. I

was born here. I am not naturalized. I was born right here, served in the United States Army, salute to the same flag, say the same pledge of allegiance. Now, this is supposed to be a government of the people. Now, if you have all these policemen around, you are going to scare all of these people away. They wouldn't be able to come here and voice their opinion. They will be afraid to come out because they will think something is wrong. They will see all the policemen, they will think something wrong is going on. Now, what is wrong? You know what is wrong. I will tell you what is wrong.

You gentlemen, I feel sorry for you, I feel sorry for you, see, because I am free, you are not. You are mannequins, you are puppets. Somebody is pulling your strings and you have to sit there and listen to me attack you. You do not like it and I don't like attacking you. I have to attack you because the person I am supposed to

attack is chicken. He wouldn't come out here and get attacked. He sends you out here to take the brunt of the weight and after all, everything is over, after the bricks were thrown, the blood has been shed, he will come out the next day. "It wasn't me, it was the Planning Board."

You see, Mr. Chairman, I can't pronounce your name because we didn't learn to spell that well in school. What is your name, sir?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: It is right there.

MR. THOMAS: I can't read it.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Cocuzza.

MR. THOMAS: Mr. Cocuzza, you see, what is going on here is a sad situation. A lot of people laugh, I see you smiled a few times. There is nothing funny. You are laughing. This is a comedy but it is a tragic comedy so it brings tears more so than laughter. You see what you are doing, you are alienating over 50 percent of the population of a city against law and order. These

people feel that there is no law and order because they don't see it working. You only believe what you see working. When you are told that you have a voice in your government but when you go to voice your opinion you find people with deaf ears, you don't believe them a second time. Nobody is going to be fooled twice.

Now, you may succeed in fooling the people about this medical school issue because I believe that a lot of you gentlemen have already had your minds made up for you about the medical school but these people don't want the medical school in this area. It is not that they are against education because they are concerned about their children. I believe there are a lot of people here who have children that want them to be doctors but they want them to become old enough to become a doctor. They want them to get an education so when they go to the doors of medical college they will be admitted and not turned down because

of a lack of education or an inferior education. This cannot be done if we back all of these people into a crowded area and have 50 and 60 children in a classroom or try to crowd a 6 hour course into a three hour course. And this is what is going to happen if you take the Central Ward and put Route 72, 78, the medical college, some type of industry that you want to put over there. If you put all of that over there, these people are going to go to other areas. Living conditions are crowded as they are now. What is needed here in Newark is more homes. You know this as well as I do.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: You have 10 more minutes, Mr. Thomas, for summation.

MR. THOMAS: What do you mean I have 10 more minutes? I have got until I die, brother.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: 10 more minutes for summation, please.

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, we have people here who will relinquish time for Mr. Thomas. Sir, last evening you made

the statement--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: I can't hear you until the audience is quiet.

What is it, sir?

MR. WALKER: Last evening you made a statement that if someone wished to remove themselves as speakers they could give another speaker the time. Now, we wish to give Mr. Thomas some time from some other speakers. You accepted these rules.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: It so happens sir, that the Board made a new ruling this morning.

MR. WALKER: Sir, you told me yesterday that you were a man of honor. We accepted you at your word.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: That is correct.

MR. WALKER: I once again reiterate --I don't interrupt you but when I am talking you listen to me--I respect you. You made this commitment. I didn't twist your arm.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: That is correct.

MR. WALKER: All right. Now the

Planning Board, you as the Chairman made this decision. The Planning Board does not have this right to change the rules and neither do you after you have commited yourself to the statement.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: We can revise our rules as the Board--

MR. WALKER: Sir, you said under no condition would you revise this agreement. You said this and we will read it from your court's minutes.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: We had a right, sir, to change our rules.

MR. WALKER: Sir, I will listen to you but once again--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Now what is the problem?

MR. WALKER: The problem is this: You made an agreement, 40 minutes of time is 40 minutes of time regardless of who is speaking, you made the agreement and you told me that you were a man of honor and if you are a man of honor, you will abide by the agreement that you made

before this audience last evening. I am not speaking of the Board, sir, you are Chairman of this meeting.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: I Chaired the meeting at the request of the other Members of the Board and they have made--

MR. WALKER: Will you poll the Board, sir?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: It is not their say-so.

MR. WALKER: Would you poll the Board? We would like to have this read into the minutes.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Would you please be good enough to let Mr. Thomas complete his speech?

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, this is a point of order and I state here once again in the past--wait a minute, you are wondering why we are here. You have changed the damn rules of the game all through the black people's lives and, damnit, it is about time you stopped changing the rules. We have a voice in what is going on also. Don't you cut

across me again.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: You are out of order.

MR. WALKER: I said I am not out of order.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Let Mr. Thomas finish.

MR. WALKER: No, I am not out of order. You made an agreement and it was a gentleman's agreement and I expect you to be a gentleman.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: That is correct, and the Board countermanded that and made a new ruling this morning.

MR. WALKER: The Board does not have that right to counterman anything that you promised the people.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Mr. Thomas--

MR. WALKER: Sir, the Board does not have the right to go back on any promises that it has given the people and it becomes a part of the record.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: I must insist you are out of order. You have to sit

down and let Mr. Thomas finish.

MR. WALKER: Sir, we don't want him to finish at this point. We are donating time of other speakers. 40 minutes of time becomes 40 minutes of time regardless of who is speaking.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Each speaker will speak for himself or herself.

MR. WALKER: You cannot tell each speaker to speak for himself. If I go into a court of law--hold it, sir, you told me--if I go into the court of law, it is not necessary for me to approach the bench and defend my own case? I can defend my own case for myself.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: If you object to our rules, you can go to court.

MR. WALKER: Yes, we will go to court but we will not accept this decision of this Board.

MR. RICHARDSON: Mr. Chairman, at the outset of this meeting this morning--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Let there be quiet, please.

MR. RICHARDSON: At the outset of the meeting this morning, you laid out the ground rules. You said you and the Planning Board had met and made certain suggestions. This was not one of the stipulations you made this morning. I beg to differ--

MR. THOMAS: We will play the tape back and we will hear it.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: It is not necessary. I say to you if you have any objection to the rules we make to go to court.

MR. RICHARDSON: That is not giving us much satisfaction.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Will you all sit down, please?

MR. RICHARDSON: Mr. Chairman, why can't you poll the Board?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Mr. Thomas, you have five more minutes, Mr.Thomas.

MR. RICHARDSON: Mr. Chairman, we would like right now to know what the ground rules are--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: You would like

to know what the ground rules are?

MR. RICHARDSON: --as you stipulated this morning. Now, let the recorder play the minutes back because I stand here and say you did not stipulate that this morning when you laid the ground rules out.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: This is a final statement after which the Chair asked you to please sit down. The Board makes reasonable rules--will you sit down, please?

MR. RICHARDSON: You stipulated what the rules were this morning and this was not one of them.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Will you please sit down?

MR. RICHARDSON: Will you have the Court Recorder read back the minutes?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: I cannot because I didn't say it.

MR. RICHARDSON: We heard it.

Will you have the clerk read back the minutes?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: You know the rules now.

MR. WALKER: No, no, not now, we want them this morning. No, we will not sit down.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Will you please sit down?

MR. WALKER: No, because if he does not sit down and you put him in jail, we will put some other people up here and you will put us all in jail tonight.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Please sit down.

MR. WALKER: No, no.

MR. RICHARDSON: I do not think it is unreasonable to ask him to play it back, read back your statement this morning to clarify the matter. I stand here and say you did not stipulate this morning about a person not yielding their time. That was not part of the rules that you set out this morning.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: I pointed out out this morning that each speaker has a

time limit for presentation of 30 minutes, each speaker, and 10 minutes for summation and that is very, very clear.

MR. RICHARDSON: And there was no question at all about yielding and based upon the decision that was established last night, that is still in effect. You did not change that this morning. That was not changed this morning.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: That was a change--

MR. RICHARDSON: It was not changed this morning.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: It was, sir.

MR. RICHARDSON: It was not changed this morning.

MR. WALKER: Then read it from the minutes.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Will you sit down, please? Will you all sit down, please?

MR. RICHARDSON: Will you let the recorder read the minutes?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: No, sir.

MR. WALKER: Why not?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: It is unnecessary.

MR. WALKER: It is not unnecessary. You are telling us that you are going to change the rules and it is unnecessary?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Sir, that was the rule made this morning.

MR. WALKER: It was not made and we have the right to question your decision.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: You question the decision in court.

MR. WALKER: No, we are not going to question it legally. What you are trying to do once again is railroad something through. You are trying to railroad something through and as you sit up there--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: No--

MR. WALKER: Yes, you are, and you know this with your heart.

Poll your people here. You have a newspaper reporter here that can testify to this.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Mr. Walker--

MR. RICHARDSON: I think it is a simple request to have the reporter read back your statement from this morning in relation to the rules and if you are right I will apologize.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: We are not going to ask the recorder to read it back. That is all.

MR. RICHARDSON: I say you did not stipulate that this morning.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: You are out of order and please sit down.

MR. WALKER: Why are we out of order? You are out of order, you changed the rules.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Mr. Thomas has the floor.

MR. WALKER: You are out of order. You are out of order. You have arbitrarily gone back on a decision that you made. You are out of order.

MR. RICHARDSON: You just now changed the rules, Mr. Chairman. You were confronted with this situation just now.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: The rules were changed this morning.

MR. RICHARDSON: They were not stipulated at the meeting when you opened the meeting this morning.

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, you stated a while back that this Board could change the rules.

MR. THOMAS: I don't care nothing about that. That all you got up there doesn't mean nothing to me. You just stated that you have a right to change the rules any time you want in the meeting and I think how in the hell can you have a fair hearing here if you are going to set a rule and don't abide by it? And if this is the case, then when you start getting hit back, then you are going to change the rules.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Would you sit down, please?

MR. RICHARDSON: Just let him read back that statement from this morning. What is so hard about that? It will take him five minutes to read the statement

back.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Mr. Richardson, you are getting excited.

MR. WALKER: I am definitely excited. You are attempting to do the same damn thing that you done over 400 years, ram things down our throat. I say here and now, sir, rather than being a man of honor, I charge you with being a liar. I charge you with being a liar because you sat here before this self same audience and made the statement that you would allow people to give time to other speakers. Now let me tell you--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: That is the statement I made last night--

MR. WALKER: Yes, you did, and you have changed it. Sir, I say that you did not inform us.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: I said that the Board changed the rules this morning.

MR. WALKER: I don't give a damn what the Board does. Now you are not even competent to render this decision.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Please sit down.

MR. WALKER: No, no.

MR. RICHARDSON: Let the stenographer read back the statement.

Mr. Chairman, this morning's meeting was on tape, wasn't it?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Yes.

MR. RICHARDSON: Can we play the tape back from this morning's meeting?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: No, sir.

Won't you please sit down and let Mr. Thomas continue?

MR. RICHARDSON: I thought we were at a Democratic meeting, when people question things, certain stipulations that were made this morning, and you just tell us arbitrarily to sit down. I am saying you did not stipulate this morning and you are going back on a statement that you made last night and I was standing right here when you made the rules. We would have protested this morning.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Can we have another speaker besides Mr. Thomas? Mr. Thomas' time is up.

MR. THOMAS: No, my time is not.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Your time is up, Mr. Thomas.

MR. THOMAS: No. How can my time be up? I was standing here waiting to speak. I couldn't get to the mike. How could my time be up? My time is not up.

You are trying to clarify something. How can my time be up?

MR. WALKER: Are you telling us at this point that this gentleman cannot talk at this time?

MR. MOORE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to appeal to you as one reasonable man to another. I would like to remind you without revoking confidence just to remember the conversation of trust and confidence expressed by you last night before you left here.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: That is correct.

MR. MOORE: Now, as one reasonable person to another, one person who wants to be understood, who wants to be respected as you have expressed that you

want the confidence of the people here who are protesting the function of your Board, you wanted above all to make sure that they understood you to be a fair and impartial man and I say--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: That is correct.

MR. MOORE: --and I say to you, Mr. Chairman, that you gave me your word and I asked you this: "If the Chairman--" you are now acting Chairman--"If the Chairman, Mr. Booker, were to return, would the rules change?" And you told me, "You have my word no rules will be changed."

Now, Mr. Chairman, I say to you as a reasonable man, as a man who wants fairness, the very least that you could do would, since the Board has placed you in such a untenable position at this moment in some sort of a clandestine meeting away from the eyesight of all concerned--and these are concerned people from the community--a secret agreement was entered into and you tell us that you were overruled. Well, Mr. Chairman, to

clear yourself, to keep yourself an honorable man in our eyesight, hold this Board in public so that the clandestine agreement that they forced upon you against your will and against your agreement as a gentleman can be made a part of a public record and then, Mr. Chairman, you will be an honorable man.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Mr. Moore, I agree with you but you must remember it is regrettable that I have to go back on my word because--

MR. MOORE: I ask the Chairman--

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Chairman, if I may, I would like to ask for a five minute recess for conference of this Board.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: You have that permission.

(A recess is taken.)

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Will you all please sit down?

Take your seats, please.

Thank you very much.

MR. Thomas, the Chair regrets this interruption and because of that interruption you are given 30 minutes to sum up. It is now 10:10. Please continue.

MR. MOORE: Mr. Chairman, I think that a lot of the people out here would like to know what new rule you came up with after you went in back.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: The Board went into a conference and will publicly decide what the rules will be.

MR. THOMAS: What are we going to do about tonight?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Just now you have 30 minutes.

MR. THOMAS: What happens after I speak?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: After that we are going to adjourn.

MR. THOMAS: After I speak you are going to adjourn?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Yes.

MR. THOMAS: What time will that be?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: At 10:40.

MR. THOMAS: Some people in the city who seem to be authority tell us that there would be adequate housing to house these people who are displaced in the 50 acres which will be taken by the medical site. We know that there is a waiting list of at least six months to get into the public housing projects so, therefore, these people that will be displaced, it will be maybe about four years before they get into projects. Now, maybe there are some of us who don't want to live in projects not because we have anything against public housing but you can't have air conditioning in the project and it may be contrary to what a lot of you think but we don't like the heat.

Now, before, Mr. Cocuzza, you said to me it is only 50 acres. Here I have before me the original area which called for Project R-72, 26.7 acres, the State Medical Health Building or Complex will take up 9.7 acres, the main area will be 112.2 acres, the related existing medical

facilities will be 7.5 acres. Then you are going to have a buffer zone of 9.9 acres. Now, if my mathematics are correct, this comes up to 166.0 acres. Is this true or not true?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: We are not here to answer any questions. Please continue.

MR. THOMAS: Well, I think I will answer my own question. This is the agreement that was made with the Medical Board. It reads, "This agreement made on blank date of blank, 1967 by the City of Newark, a municipal corporation of the State of New Jersey hereafter referred to as the city, the housing authority of the City of Newark hereafter referred to as the housing authority and the director, Division of Purchase and Property, Department of Treasury, State of New Jersey, for and on behalf of New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry, a body corporate and politic in the Department of Education, State of New Jersey, hereafter referred to as the

college; . . . . Witness, whereas the City desires to have located within its limits the permanent facilities of the college and further--" Excuse me. Of course, I would like all of this to go on record. You are taking this down, aren't you, sir?

"Witness, whereas the city desires to have located within its limits the permanent facilities of the college and further desires to do all things pertaining by law to achieve that end and whereas the college desires to locate its permanent facilities within the limits of the city for the purpose of educating students in the health professions rendering medical, dental and related services to the general public, encouraging and conducting medical research and improving health services available to residents of the State of New Jersey; and whereas the college desires to locate its permanent facilities within the limits of the City in license upon assurance given to the college by the City and the Planning

Board that no more than 150 acres, 150 acres of real property be described herein can and will be delivered to the college by the city; and whereas the City desirous of delivering said land to the college; and whereas the college, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 231 of the Law of 1964 is empowered to enter into agreement with political subdivisions of the State of New Jersey to carry out the purposes for which the college was created--"

Now, this is the agreement that was made by the City Planning Board with the College of Medicine and Dentistry.

How is it, sir, Mr. Cocuzza, that you were not apprised of these facts?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: We have no answers for you. After the hearing, we will evaluate all of the information.

MR. THOMAS: Well, what is the purpose of the hearing?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: To listen to all comments and questions and evaluate the information rendered by all here and to ascertain, after the information has been

evaluated, to decide whether the area is actually blighted or not. That is the purpose of this hearing.

MR. THOMAS: Well, Mr. Cocuzza, you are speaking of 50 acres and this agreement made with the College of Medicine and Dentistry is speaking of 150 acres. Now, in order for we, the concerned citizens to ascertain what steps we must take to block or to help you get what you want, we have to know what you are talking about. Now, is there another agreement which was made? This must not be true because you are speaking of 50 acres and this agreement is speaking about 150 acres. Which agreement should we go by?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: We are talking tonight only about the 50 acres.

MR. THOMAS: What are they going to put on this 50 acres?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: If there are any other answers to your questions--

MR. THOMAS: Are they going to put on this 50 acres the 26.7 acres

that is going to be used for project R-72 or are they going to put on this 50 acres the 112.2 acres for the main area?

Now, how are you going to squeeze 112.2 acres into 50 acres?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Please continue with your statement.

MR. THOMAS: I am befuddled here. I do not understand. Something is wrong.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Please continue.

MR. THOMAS: It states right here that the main area which would be the college is going to be 112.2 acres. Now you are speaking about 50 acres. Are we talking about the parking lot?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Please continue.

MR. THOMAS: I cannot see how anyone can continue because we haven't made a meeting of the mind. You don't know what I am talking about and I don't know what you are talking about.

What are you going to put on this 50 acres? You told me earlier that

we were discussing whether these 50 acres were blighted. What about the other 100 acres? When are we going to discuss whether they are blighted or not?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Please continue, sir.

MR.THOMAS: I would like to know whether you will define what blight means.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: The transcript, after the completion of this hearing, at the very beginning of this hearing gave a definition of "blight" and when the hearing is completed, if you choose to have--

MR. THOMAS: I was in Florida at that time.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: You can get a copy of that.

MR. THOMAS: Could you repeat it because I wasn't here. In any court of law or any parliamentary proceeding, you can go back into the record and repeat something and I am asking that privilege now. Would you redefine "blight" for me?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: It is in the record, sir.

MR. THOMAS: Well, would you read that back from the record, please?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: That information is a matter of public record. You can obtain it from the State Law Department, the statutes and also the transcript.

MR. THOMAS: Mr. Cocuzza, I would like to go on but there are a few things that have to be cleared up first. Number one, I would like to know what "blight" means in your eyesight and, number two, I would like to know whether you are speaking about 50 acres or 150 acres. This agreement was made by our city fathers with the Secretary of the Treasury, Department of Treasury, the Division of Purchase and Property and the Director of the Housing Authority. Now, are you telling me that these men do not know what they are talking about? Are you calling them a liar? They are speaking about 150 acres, you are speaking about 50. Who is right?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Please continue. We will listen to your comments.

MR. THOMAS: Are you taking--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: The area in question at this hearing is on the record and it refers to only the area bounded by Bergen Street, Norfolk Street, South Orange Avenue on the south, 12th Avenue and West Market Street on the north. That is the only area that we are concerned with this evening or from the very inception of this public hearing.

Please continue.

MR. THOMAS: To the best of my knowledge, when two people, two or more people enter into a contract, there must be some type of consideration. Now, the consideration happened to be in this case the College of Medicine and Dentistry and you are to get this for giving them a certain amount of acreage. You are talking about 50, this agreement is talking about 150. Which one of these are right? Are you right or is this agreement right?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: We are not concerned about any agreements, we are concerned about the area bounded and the subject of this hearing.

MR. THOMAS: I ask you again, Mr. Cocuzza, the people that have come out here tonight, these people do not afford the luxury of having a lot of leisure time so they are here because they are concerned and they are sacrificing a lot to be here and they are not going to get any pay for this.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: I have stated many times, sir--

MR. THOMAS: Now, these people want to know about the 100 surrounding acres to this 50 you are speaking of.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: This hearing only covers--

MR. THOMAS: The 50 is surrounded by 100 more. What is going to happen to the 100 acres that the medical school wants?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: We have no question on that because it is not part

of the hearing.

MR. THOMAS: But it is part of the plans.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: The hearing governs only that area bounded by Bergen Street, Norfolk Street, South Orange Avenue and South 12th Street.

MR. THOMAS: I would like this on the record. Mr. Cocuzza should disqualify himself for lack of knowledge of the functions of the Planning Board. I state that, Mr. Cocuzza, as a red-blooded American and as a man of conscience, you should get out of that seat.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Mr. Thomas, you are out of order.

MR. THOMAS: Because you are not hurting us, you are insulting yourself. I wouldn't sit in the seat if I were you. You don't know what is going on. And it is a shame, see, because a lot of these people here are taxpayers, these lights are burning, it is their money that is making these lights burn. These lights

are burning, this furniture is here. They want to know, they want to come here to know sham. You are a lesson for them and a majority of the people out here--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Please stick to the subject matter, please.

MR. THOMAS: There is no subject matter. There is no subject matter because you don't know what the subject is. You are talking about 50 acres, the agreement is talking about 150 acres, the local press is talking about 150 acres, the College Board is talking 150 acres but you are still talking about a lousy little 50 acres. The main area of this medical college of medicine and dentistry is 112.2 acres. Where are they going to put this?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Please continue, Mr. Thomas.

MR. THOMAS: Mr. Cocuzza, do you know how to get this information?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: I don't hear you, sir.

MR. THOMAS: In other words, you

are not even paying attention.

I would like this to go on the record also that Mr. Cocuzza is deaf, therefore, he can't sit at a hearing because he can't hear what other people are saying and a deaf man can't preside over a hearing.

Mr. Chairman, would you give way to youth for a moment? This gentleman sitting right next to you in the blue suit, the Secretary, perhaps he can answer some of my questions because you are the Secretary, the custodian of records. Is that the duty of the Secretary, to be the custodian of the records? Do you have a copy of this agreement? Does your agreement state 150 acres?

Excuse me, sir. Excuse me, sir.

MR. GIACCHINO: I am not here to answer any questions. We are here today to have this hearing.

MR. THOMAS: What is your name, sir?

MR. GIACCHINO: My name is

Giacchino, Aldo.

MR. THOMAS: Could you spell it? I can't hear it.

MR. GIACCHINO: Please continue with your statement.

MR. THOMAS: Is it not proper that you should have your name in front of you so I can see who I am talking about? What is your name?

MR. Chairman, could you ask your Secretary to answer my question, please?

MR. GIACCHINO: Sir, there are no answers. We are here to listen to your statement. Now, make your statement.

MR. THOMAS: As uncouth as we are supposed to be, I would like to address a person by their name and if I don't know your name, I can't address you by your name. I don't want to call you buddy, George, Sam, Charlie, boss, whitey. I want to call you by name.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Mr. Thomas, address all of your remarks to the Chair, please.

MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman, could

I have the name of your Secretary?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Mr. Aldo Giacchino.

Address your remarks to the Chair, please.

MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman, see, I am regimented, Mr. Chairman, sir, I would like to know from your Secretary does his copy of the agreements have in it on the first page, Page No. L, 150 acres in the last paragraph?

MR. GIACCHINO: Mr. Chairman--

MR. WALKER: You have not answered his question.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Mr. Thomas, would you please, that is a matter of public record. We are not talking about the agreements, sir, we are talking about the area bounded by Bergen Street--

MR. THOMAS: Right, we are talking --

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: --Norfolk Street, South Orange Avenue and 12th Avenue and a portion of West Market Street.

MR. THOMAS: According to the agree-

ment, it is 150 acres. Are we speaking about 150 acres? Are we speaking about 150 acres?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Sir--

MR. THOMAS: Are we speaking of 150 acres?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: We are not. There is the map within which the medical college is being considered to be put.

MR. THOMAS: Then this agreement does not mean anything. Are you telling me that this agreement does not mean anything?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: We are not talking about the agreement.

MR. THOMAS: Well, the agreement coincides with the map I presume. In other words, you are telling me this agreement means nothing.

Are you telling me that the agreement that you made with the college of medicine and dentistry does not mean anything?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Sir, the map --

MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: --to your left--

MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman, are you telling me that the agreement that you made with the college of medicine and dentistry does not mean anything?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: I am telling you that agreement has no bearing on the purppse of this hearing.

MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman, is it not the purpose of this hearing to decide whether a college of medicine and dentistry should be put or placed in the Central Ward? Is it not the purpose of this hearing--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: The purpose of this hearing, I must repeat, is for us to accept, receive all the information at this public hearing and evaluate that after an extensive study. After that study, we will then be asked whether this area will be considered blighted or not.

MR. THOMAS: How long is it going to take you to make the study?

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: It could take two months or three months because the

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: No answers to any of those questions. I am apprising you of the area under consideration.

MR. THOMAS: On this map which was made by the City of Newark it says, "Newark, New Jersey, College of Medicine and Dentistry, area in project R-72, 26.7 acres, State Medical Health, 9.7 acres, main area, 112.2 acres, related existing medical facilities, 7.5 acres, buffer zone, 9.9 acres, total, 166.0 acres plus other facilities in R-72, 12.7 acres."

You never seen this map before? Is this 50 acres--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: Mr. Thomas, you have one more minute and your time is up.

MR. THOMAS: You know, all night long and all the night before--see, people came here from other organizations, people came here from other civic groups talking about violence, talking about brick throwing, talking about laying in front of bulldozers. As I told you, our council,

the civic council, we are not going to lay in front of those bulldozers, we are not going to sit there. That is what you would do. We are not going to throw no bricks. That is stupid. We are going to beat you, brother. Do you know how we are going to beat you? We are going to beat you with--

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: This hearing--

MR. THOMAS: We are going to have people there to answer questions, we are going to have people to know what is going to happen.

CHAIRMAN COCUZZA: This hearing is adjourned and continued to tomorrow night, Thursday, at 7:00 P.M. in these chambers.